EAST BAY EXPRESS

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BEST OF THE EAST BAY 2014









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On the Cover *Mark Jason Salelo. Photo by Brad Wanner. Illustration by Rosanna Perotta.*

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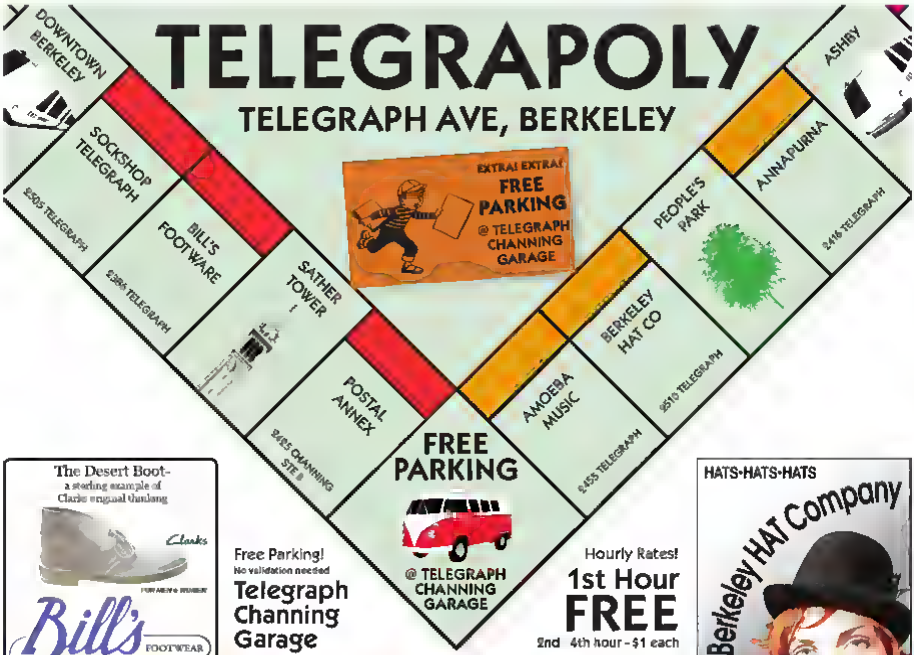
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LETTERS

"There Is No Such Thing As a Child Prostitute" Feature 7/2

Sex Isn't the Right Word

If she is being quoted correctly, I'm sorry Prosecutor Jennifer Madden used this wording. "These girls are having sex all night and all day. They are being used 24-7." If not, then they are being used sexually but they are not "having sex" in the common understanding of that term.

Nancy Schlemmel, Berkeley

What About Perpetrators?

Thank you for your very important article "There Is No Such Thing As a Child Prostitute" on sex trafficking and especially on how important it is to not put sex victims into the juvenile criminal system. I appreciate all the attention to what is happening to women and children around this issue. What I don't see or hear us what is happening to stop the users of the system. There are many men who are paying for these services. Why are they not mentioned? Are they being prosecuted? If not, your trying to arrest them for perpetuating this criminal way of abusing women and children? I feel the same way after reading this article as I did looking at college handbooks that state in such a matter of fact way that they have a department to deal with victims of rape, but don't mention that they have very stringent programs to talk to the young men about the consequences if any young woman reports a rape, as well as programs for prevention, etc. Why do we talk so much about victims and not about perpetrators? There would be no victims if there were no perpetrators. It's the same as the days gone by where it was only the girls who got pregnant who suffered, never the boys who participated in getting them pregnant. Oh, but then I don't think it has really changed. Please address what is being done about the perpetrators of sex crimes, both the clients and the pimps. Thank you.

Lisa Carey, Berkeley

Seeing Red

Thanks for this article. Every time I read that a "fifteen-year-old prostitute" was arrested, I see red.

Autumn Kruse, Richmond

"The Fight to Develop West Oakland" News, 7/9

BART Capacity Concerns

My concern about a transit village around West Oakland BART is that it ignores the fact that BART is topping over capacity at rush hour, with trains at the "last stop" eastbound and westbound already too full for a single person to get on board. This will only get worse as BART extends farther and farther out to the East and South. BART has sucked almost every penny in regional transit investment for decades, and this has left us with little redundancy or diversity to provide significant capacity as we pass the limits of the BART system.

It was tragically shortsighted to not build the new bridge with mass transit capacity even if that did require building a new western transit-only span. New residents in West Oakland who buy into the area because of BART are going to be pissed off when they discover that it takes five minutes to walk to the train and six minutes to get to Embarcadero — but that only works if there is a train you can get on. That is going to become more and more of a risk in the future. The people who conceived of BART fifty years ago assumed that the people living today would solve their own damn transit problems, but unfortunately we live in an era where accomplishing big things is harder and harder.

Peter Wiznitzky, Oakland

Bridge to Artisanal Cheese Lab" Food News 7/2

WTF, GMOs

WTF are you creating GMOs? You should be eliminating them! I, for one, will never try your cheese. Hell, I'll even stick with Daiya before I try your chemicals. Thank goodness Miyoko Schinner is going in numerical with her incredible cheeses!

Ellen Kessler, Denver, Colorado

Corrections

Our July 16 cover story, "Coming Home," misspelled the last name of former inmate Mark Tindall; a graduate of the Pathways to Resilience reentry program. And our July 16 Eco Watch "Fishermen Derailed Over Limit Rules," misstated the name of a fish that has been heavily harvested. It's the yelloweye rockfish — not the yellowtail rockfish.





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CALIFORNIA HALTS FRACKING WASTE INJECTIONS

The drought has forced farmers to rely on groundwater even as California aquifers have been intentionally polluted due to exemptions for the oil industry

By Abrahm Lustgarten

California officials ordered on emergency shutdown earlier this month of eleven oil and gas waste injection sites — and a review more than one hundred others — in the state's drought-wracked Central Valley out of fear that companies may have been pumping fracking fluids and other toxic waste into drinking water aquifers there.

On July 7 the state's Division of Oil and Gas and Geothermal Resources issued cease and desist orders in seven energy companies, warning that they may be injecting waste into aquifers that could be a source of drinking water and posing "a danger to life, health, property and natural resources." State officials say the investigation is expanding to look at additional wells.

The action comes as California's agriculture industry copes with a drought crisis that has emptied reservoirs and cost the state $2.2 billion this year alone. The lack of water has forced farmers across the state to supplement their water supply from underground aquifers, according to a study released last week by UC Davis.

The problem is that at least one hundred of the state's aquifers were presumed to be useless for drinking and farming because the water was either of poor quality or too deep underground to easily access. Years ago the state exempted these aquifers from environmental protection and allowed the oil and gas industry to intentionally pollute them. But not all aquifers are exempted, and the system amounts to a patchwork of protected and unprotected water resources deep underground. Now, according to the cease and desist orders issued by the state, it appears that at least seven injection wells are likely pumping waste into fresh water aquifers protected by the law, and not other aquifers sacrificed by the state long ago.

A 2012 ProPublica investigation of more than 700 poor injection wells across the country found that wells were often poorly regulated and supervised, high rates of failure — instances that were likely polluting underground water supplies that are supposed to be protected by federal law. That investigation also disclosed a little-known program overseen by the US Environmental Protection Agency that exempted more than 1,000 other drinking water aquifers — many of them in California — from any sort of pollution protection at all.

Those are the aquifers at issue today. According to documents the state filed with the US EPA in 1981 and that were obtained by ProPublica, the exempted aquifers were poorly defined and ambiguously outlined. They were often identified by hand-drawn lines on a map, making it difficult to know today exactly which bodies of water were supposed to be protected. These exemptions and documents were signed by California Governor Jerry Brown, who also was governor in 1981.

State officials emphasized that they will now order water testing and monitoring at the injection well sites in question. "We do not have any direct evidence any drinking water has been affected," wrote Steve Bohlen the state's oil and gas supervisor in a statement. Bohlen said his office was acting "out of an abundance of caution." A spokesperson said the state became aware of the problems through a review of facilities it was conducting according to California's fracking law passed late last year, which required the state to study fracking impacts and adopt regulations to address its risks, including underground disposal.

California officials have long been under fire for their injection well practices, a waste disposal program that the state runs according to federal law and under a sort of honor — called "primacy" — given to it by the EPA. For one, experts say that aquifers the states and the EPA once thought would never be needed may soon become important sources of water as the climate changes and technology reduces the cost of pumping it from deep underground and treating it for consumption. Indeed, towns in Wyoming and Texas — two states also suffering long-term droughts — are pumping, treating, and delivering drinking water to taps from aquifers that would be considered unusable under California state regulations governing the oil and gas industry.

In June 2011, the EPA conducted a review of other aspects of California's injection well program and found enforcement, testing, and oversight problems so significant that the agency demanded California improve its regulations and warned that the state's authority could be revoked. Among the issues, California and the federal government disagree about what water is worth protecting, with state law only protecting a fraction of the waters that the federal Safe Drinking Water Act requires.

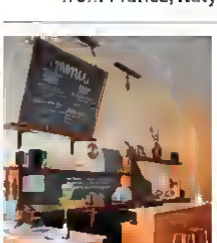
The EPA's report also said that California regulators routinely failed to adequately scrutinize the geology around an injection well to ensure that fluids pumped into it would not leak underground and contaminate drinking water aquifers. The report found that state inspectors often allowed injection at pressures that exceeded the capabilities of the wells and thus risked cracking the surrounding rock and spreading contaminants. Several accidents in recent years in California involved injected waste or injected steam leaking back out of abandoned wells or blowing out of the ground and creating sinkholes, including one 2011 incident that killed an oil worker.

The exemptions and other failings said Damon Nagami, a senior attorney with the Natural Resources Defense Council in an email, are "especially disturbing" in a state that has been keenly aware of severe water constraints for more than a century. "Our drinking water sources must be protected and preserved for the precious resources they are, not sacrificed as a garbage dump for the oil and gas industry."

This report was produced by ProPublica.org

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Mills adjuncts Darla Bunck, Kate Robinson, Ben Brown, and Jill Nicholsen. Courtesy of SEIU Local 1021

NEWS

THE BATTLE FOR ADJUNCT FACULTY RIGHTS

Non-tenured professors at Mills College are pushing for better working conditions — and filing labor violation charges against the school

By Sam Levin

At Mills College, more than 64 percent of faculty members are adjuncts. That means a majority of professors at the liberal arts college in East Oakland don't have tenure or long term contracts, and face a significant amount of job uncertainty from one semester to the next. Adjuncts also say that the low pay they receive makes it difficult to support a family in the Bay Area.

In an effort to establish better working conditions and increased job security, 78 percent of adjunct faculty at Mills voted in May to join SEIU Local 1021, the union that represents more than 50,000 public sector and nonprofit workers in Northern California. That means that non-tenured professors at the college now have basic union protections and representation. And last week, professors, union representatives, and administrators began the process of negotiating the college's first-ever union contract for adjuncts. Mills was the first private, nonprofit college in the Bay Area to have its adjuncts unionize and a number of other local schools are now following suit.

While activists celebrate this milestone, Mills administrators have, according to a number of adjuncts and labor activists, responded with a series of retaliatory actions. SEIU 1021 has already filed four unfair labor practice charges against Mills alleging that the college has implemented policy changes without giving the union proper notice or an opportunity to bargain — and has retaliated and discriminated against two faculty members for union organizing. Critics say the administration's actions reflect an ongoing failure to support adjuncts and a level of resistance to unionization that contradicts the progressive values the college purports to promote.

"At Mills, like many other schools, the programs could not be running in the way they are running without adjuncts," said Stephanie Young, an adjunct English professor who has been working at Mills since 2004. "We are members of the faculty."

Despite her decade working for the college, Young's teaching title remains "visiting assistant professor." Until last month, she also held the administrative position of "director of English graduate enrollment and programs."

But in early June just a week after the successful vote to unionize Young learned that the provost's office had eliminated her director position — a move that she said came as a shock to her and her department supervisors. The decision to cut her director position — one in which she oversaw admissions, enrollment, professional development and more — means she will no longer be a full time employee at Mills. Instead, she will only be teaching classes part time in the fall.

This action by the provost, Kimberley Phillips, prompted the union to file a charge of retaliation and discrimination with the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) alleging that the college reduced Young's position because she had been active in union organizing. Young is now a member of the bargaining team.

"The idea that a provost would zoom in and fire your administrative staff is kind of unheard of," said Juliana Spahr, a tenured professor of English and former director of creative writing. Spahr said the provost's office did not consult with any dean or director in the English department in advance of cutting Young's position and another administrative position Spahr and another tenured professor were originally supposed to step up as co-chairs of the department starting this summer, but both decided not to, in part due to concerns about the elimination of Young's position. That means the department currently has no one in a leadership position and no one assigned to cover Young's extensive administrative duties.

The elimination of Young's position and the resulting turbulence in the English department is arguably a strong illustration of why adjuncts need union representation — and a demonstration of the important role non-tenured faculty play at the college and the way in which their jobs are so vulnerable.

It's also notable the students who suffer when administrators don't support adjuncts, said Young, who has mentored graduate students and curated a departmental reading series that now has an uncertain future. "Faculty working conditions are student learning conditions," she said. "It's really about the experience for students."

And the lack of basic job security can take a toll on adjuncts, professors said. "They are able to treat adjuncts as disposable employees," said Ben Brown, an adjunct professor of history who has been teaching at Mills for a decade. "You can teach there for ten years like I have and have absolutely no guarantees [of future classes]." Brown is also classified as a "visiting assistant professor."

The union also filed a retaliation charge against Mills on Brown's behalf over the late that the college allegedly assigned him a class and then subsequently rescinded its offer after he began advocating for unionization. After SEIU filed the charge, Mills re-offered the course to him and the union withdrew its complaint. "What bothered me more than anything was their arbitrariness," Brown said. "They can at any time, change stuff … and cancel classes."

A number of adjuncts at Mills said many non-tenured professors currently have received no written guarantee that they'll be teaching

MILLS ADMINISTRATORS "ARE ABLE TO TREAT ADJUNCTS AS DISPOSABLE EMPLOYEES," SAID BROWN. "YOU CAN TEACH THERE FOR TEN YEARS LIKE I HAVE AND HAVE ABSOLUTELY NO GUARANTEES" OF FUTURE CLASSES.

in the fall — which, this late into summer, has raised concerns that scheduled courses may be cut. "A vast majority of us are in a situation of pretty extreme precarity," said David Bunck, adjunct English professor.

Fueling questions about why is the fact that, according to an email Mills College President Alecia DeCoudreaux recently sent to faculty, the college laid off a total of eight people in several departments in June and July and reduced the full time positions of two others (including Young). The cuts were due to budget constraints DeCoudreaux wrote.

Through the bargaining process, adjuncts and union representatives will likely be pushing for protections against last minute class cancellations and unjust dismissals, stronger standards for pay and benefits, a fairer and more predictable process for getting appointments, equitable compensation for course preparation and development work, and more.

"The investment has to be very serious on both sides," said Neha Dave, an adjunct economics professor and member of the bargaining team. Dave who works full-time at Mills, teaching three to five classes per year said the union contract should provide better security to adjuncts who have demonstrated their capabilities and commitment. "You want to go out of your way to make sure you retain them and that they are meaningful contributors," she said. "We are really really passionate and deeply belong to this place."

A Mills spokesperson sent me a statement from DeCoudreaux that said, "Mills respected the rights of our adjunct faculty members to organize and form a union of their choosing." It continued, "Mills has a strong policy against retaliation and we are saddened to hear that members of our community felt they had been subjected to conduct that they felt violated the National Labor Relations Act."

DeCoudreaux also acknowledged the labor charges filed against Mills in her statement, but argued that two are the "result of a misunderstanding regarding the application of campus policies." She and the college would soon submit its position to the NLRB. "We hope to develop a good working relationship with SEIU," she added.

The adjunct backlash is not unique to Mills. SEIU documented the ways in which college adjuncts suffer from a lack of job security and low wages in a report released in June. In 2012, 68 percent of faculty at private, nonprofit colleges and universities in the Bay Area were not on tenure tracks according to the report. The study, researched last, given the regional median pay per course for adjuncts — $3,300 at the master's level and $4,500 at the doctoral level — a typical adjunct would have to teach between 23 and 32 classes a year to afford rent and utilities for a two-bedroom apartment in the Bay Area.

Nationally the report continued, the average pay per course of adjuncts is roughly $3,000, meaning eight courses per year would add up to annual earnings of just $24,000 — less than the proposed new minimum wage in Oakland for a full-time worker. What's more, colleges have dramatically increased their dependence on adjuncts. While non-tenure track positions made up only 22 percent of faculty positions in the US in 1969, by 2009 they made up 66 percent of faculty, SEIU reported.

"A lot of them are really trying to scrape together a living," SEIU Local 1021 spokesperson Jennifer Smith-Camejo said of the adjuncts. The union is currently collecting anecdotal evidence of the hardships adjuncts face — professors who can't afford healthcare, depend on their parents financially, struggle to pay their children's college tuition, and more. "You are being paid a fraction of what your colleagues are making doing essentially the same work," Smith-Camejo added.

SEIU released its report as part of its Adjunct Action Bay Area campaign, which is aimed at accelerating non-tenured faculty across the region to unionize. Two weeks after the Mills union vote, San Francisco Art Institute adjuncts voted to join the union, and last week SEIU filed for a union election for the California College of the Arts (which has campuses in Oakland and San Francisco). SEIU is currently in discussions with adjuncts at a number of additional Bay Area colleges.

"The idea is to organize as many adjunct faculty at as many colleges in the area as possible to drive up the standards," Smith-Camejo said. "Adjunct faculty are just really fed up."

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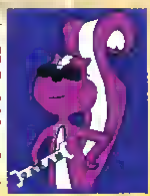
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Oakland has stalled back the power of its surveillance center but questions remain. Ali Winston/File photo

NEWS

OAKLAND'S SURVEILLANCE FIGHT CONTINUES

Civil liberties groups sue the feds over a surveillance program used by OPD and other local law enforcement agencies as Oakland develops privacy safeguards that would require review of such programs.

By Ali Winston

Thirteen years after the September 11 attacks and eleven years after the catastrophic invasion of Iraq, the United States is experiencing a groundswell of resistance to the dubious security measures put in place over the past decade. The groundbreaking revelations of Edward Snowden about the mass surveillance programs — foreign and domestic — run by the National Security Agency have been a major catalyst for this pushback, as were questions about the militarized police response to the Occupy movement in 2011 and 2012.

As part of the ongoing pushback, a group of civil liberties organizations sued the US Department of Justice earlier this month over a nationwide anti-terrorism reporting program that allegedly violates federal safeguards for criminal intelligence gathering and has led to unwarranted surveillance and racial profiling of innocent people. One aspect of the suit involves so-called Suspicious Activity Reporting (SAR) which is conducted by local law enforcement agencies, including the Oakland Police Department.

In fact, the OPD has been filling out SAR reports and sending them to the FBI as part of a national surveillance program since 2008. SAR is intended to document behaviors that law enforcement considers suspect and potential precursors for terrorism. But it also includes an extremely broad definition of such conduct — a definition that is lower than the usual standard of reasonable suspicion for criminal investigation or prosecution, and that has led to the targeting of people who took photographs of bridges or train stations or were simply perceived as a threat for their Middle Eastern appearance or Muslim garb.

Under OPD's SAR program, the department's terrorism liaison officer reserves specialized training and communicates regularly with a regional joint terrorism task force. In large cities — such as New York City, Chicago, and Los Angeles — that have mass surveillance centers, also known as real time crime centers, law enforcement officials store the SAR reports or large databases that are then mined for information about current and potential criminal activity. Oakland officials visited similar facilities in Chicago and Los Angeles to develop a blueprint for Oakland's planned mass surveillance center known as the Domain Awareness Center, or the DAC for short.

However, after several months of intense public debate and pushback from Oakland residents and civil liberties advocates who were worried about threats to privacy and unregulated law enforcement surveillance, the city council decided earlier this year to restrict the DAC's proposed citywide coverage to Port of Oakland property. As part of this measure that cut down the DAC's coverage, the Oakland council established an ad hoc committee of citizens and experts charged with designing privacy and data retention policies for the DAC.

According to documents and interviews with committee members, the DAC Ad Hoc Committee on Privacy and Data Retention is looking at the experience of another West Coast city — Seattle — at regulating surveillance technology. In March 2013, the Seattle City Council unanimously passed an ordinance requiring city departments to obtain the council's formal approval before acquiring certain surveillance equipment, and to develop protocols for data retention, sharing, and privacy for such respective technology.

According to interviews with committee members and Oakland city officials, the citizens commission has proposed draft legislation that would require city departments to submit formal requests to the council if they planned to purchase, loan, or receive information from surveillance equipment, or share information with outside agencies. "We took the Seattle ordinance and put some teeth into it; there's more transparency, more metrics, more reporting requirements," said Brian Hofer, an attorney who is an active member of the Oakland Privacy Working Group and is the committee vice-chair. "It's not just purchasing the technology — if you're going to use it, you have to justify it before the city council." Hofer noted that the Alameda County District Attorney's Office is planning to purchase a Harris Corporation Stingray device, which can identify a cellphone, intercept metadata transmitted to and from that device, and can eavesdrop on phone calls. Great documents that I reviewed indicate that the DA plans to share this device with police in Oakland and Fremont.

But unlike the Seattle ordinance, Oakland's proposed law regulating surveillance technologies and equipment has specific enforcement provisions. Anyone found guilty of violating the ordinance would be found guilty of a misdemeanor and risk imprisonment for one year, a fine of $5,000, or both. According to privacy advocates in Seattle the lack of enforcement provisions and penalties in that city's ordinance have become an issue recently, as individual components of a since-deactivated citywide "mesh network" capable of tracking cellphones, laptops, and other mobile devices via Bluetooth signals has been reactivated without public notice or explanation.

Linda Lye, a staff attorney at the American Civil Liberties Union of Northern California who has closely followed Oakland's debate over the DAC, said it is "essential" that the city create some guidelines for existing and emerging surveillance technologies. "There should be some method to the madness," Lye said, pointing to Oakland's lack of a specific retention period for data collected by the police department's license plate readers. OPD says license plate reader data is "purged within two to three years due to size of server." Public records requests I made to OPD for documentation of policies specific to license-plate reader data retention and sharing did not turn up written policies. (see "New Questions About Surveillance and Secrecy in Oakland," 3/12)

"There is an immediate need to address our data-retention and data-sharing policies," said Councilmember Libby Schaaf, who is running for mayor. "I've not seen evidence that we have any policies in place regarding data retention and sharing" for technologies such as license-plate readers, ShotSpotter gunshot detection devices, and CCTV footage from city-owned cameras. Schaaf originally supported a citywide DAC, but months of public debate and news reports (including by the *Express*) about the project's potential costs and use for monitoring First Amendment activity changed her stance in favor of more safeguards and limits.

If Oakland goes ahead with an overhaul of its information gathering and sharing practices, the SAR program — and Oakland Police's information sharing agreements with the FBI and local Joint Terrorism Task Force — would require public review and approval by the city council. However, in recent years, OPD and the FBI have refused to discuss their information-sharing practices.

OPD did not respond to requests for comment for this report. Schaaf said Police Chief Sean Whent is supportive of moving forward with policies that would limit data sharing with outside agencies and the creation of firm data retention guidelines. ●

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Several new businesses have opened recently in the Bancroft-Fairfax district. Jesse Schewe

NEWS

A NEIGHBORHOOD REAWAKENS

A once bustling business district in East Oakland is finally coming back to life

By Jesse Schewe

Once known as Antique Row or Antique Alley the Bancroft-Fairfax district in East Oakland used to be a premiere shopping destination. For roughly fifty years, people from all over the Bay Area would flock to the area in search of antiques. But by the 1990s, there were only a few antique stores left. By the turn of this century they were all gone.

Ever since, the Bancroft-Fairfax area has been peckled by empty storefronts, as the district has tried to reinvent itself. Churches and hair salons moved in by the dozens, but they struggled to stay afloat. Establishments catering to basic needs — the laundromat, the liquor store, and the diner — became the neighborhood's main attractions. Not a single vendor or front door lacked the protection of iron bars.

But over the past year Bancroft-Fairfax has been experiencing a comeback. The hair salons and churches are still there, but a number of other new businesses have now taken root. In the last year six new businesses have opened and another one is slated to open this summer. Foot traffic has increased. Neighbors and merchants have formed the first-ever Bancroft-Fairfax Merchant's Watch Association. Construction started on a multi-unit live/work spaces on the corner of Fairfax Avenue and Foothill Boulevard and an empty lot that might be the neighborhood's salvation to start parking is finally for sale. The neighborhood still has a long way to go, but the future is starting to look much brighter.

Tammy Rhymes, the owner of Just Because Boutique, was the first of the six new business owners to open up in the area. For years, she had operated her "store on wheels" out of a converted Mother's Cookies truck, but when the opportunity arose to rent a storefront on Fairfax Avenue, ditching the truck was a no-brainer. "I can't really explain it, but when I came, I got a good feeling about it — kind of like I always knew I was going to end up here," she said.

The Bancroft-Fairfax district was originally built on hope. When realtor Charles P. Eggleston moved to the neighborhood at the turn of the 20th century commercial development had not yet spread north of East 14th Street (now International Boulevard). Eggleston believed the area was "the logical point in the east-of-the-lake section for a thriving suburban trading center," so he funded the construction of multiple storefronts along Fairfax Avenue in the hopes of attracting future businesses. The eponymous Eggleston building at the corner of Foothill Boulevard and Fairfax Avenue was his masterpiece and it still stands today. Within a few years, real estate in the neighborhood increased sevenfold and by the time the Fairfax Theatre opened in 1926, Eggleston's vision "of a business block" was complete.

One hundred years later it is hope — again — that has led to the neighborhood's revitalization. In January, a retro parlour La Maison House of Tattoos, opened its doors in the district. Like Rhymes, owner Wendy Watts was overwhelmed with a similarly good feeling about the community that influenced her decision to move there. By spring, the neighborhood welcomed its first coffee shop, Caffe Nonna, followed by a cafe, Kafe Kalao, a reggae and African-wear/art shop, Sunchild, and a youth music studio for the Oakland Leadership Center.

Longtime merchants are ecstatic about the new businesses that have helped bring the area one step closer to becoming a shopping destination again. "They're adding variety to the whole block, which works for us," said Martin Trahan, Jr., the owner of Truly Blessed Hands, a barbershop and men's clothing store that has been in the neighborhood for ten years. "Now there's all types of things you can do over here besides just getting a haircut."

The diversity of new businesses in the area is also having a positive economic impact. Just Because Boutique and the cafes, for example, benefit from the influx of customers who go to the tattoo shop or get a haircut.

The relatively inexpensive rents are one reason for the district's sudden growth. As development creeps further into East Oakland, neighborhoods east of High Street have become increasingly more appealing to business owners. Sandra Bradford, the owner of Caffe Nonna, had originally planned to open her shop in the Laurel, but chose the Bancroft-Fairfax district because she felt it had more potential. "There's a shift over here that's getting ready to take place," she said.

But the lower rents notice at a price: It can be harder to preserve business in low-income neighborhoods. "It's a long-term investment," said Bilal Sabir, owner of Delightful Foods, who has worked in the area for more than twenty years. "You've got to hustle to get your customers and build up your clientele. A lot of people fail, especially up and down Fairfax."

Hoping to reverse this trend, business owners have turned to advertising and increased signage as a way to attract customers. Rhymes has put up mannequins dressed in sundresses and mini skirts on either end of Fairfax Avenue to bring attention to her boutique. Other business owners have erected twenty-foot-tall canvas banners in front of their stores, advertising everything from haircuts to sandwiches and smoothies. Some shop owners acknowledge that the banners are gaudy and do little to improve the image of the area, but for the time being, they have no plans to take them down. As one vendor said, they might be ugly but they're also hard to miss.

Also hard to miss are the blue and white Merchant Watch Association signs that hang in storefront windows and on sidewalk poles. "This is an intersection where people know each other and look out for each other," said resident Kateb Kaaing, who played a central role in forming the association. "We came together for a lot of reasons, and part of it was trying to effect more positive change."

As business has perked up, parking in the area has gotten worse, however. Because there

"I CAN'T REALLY EXPLAIN IT, BUT WHEN I CAME, I GOT A GOOD FEELING ABOUT IT — KIND OF LIKE I ALWAYS KNEW I WAS GOING TO END UP HERE," RHYMES SAID OF THE BANCROFT-FAIRFAX DISTRICT.

are no nearby lots or garages, curbside parking is the only option, and the city strictly enforces the hourly limits on the spaces. Merchants worry that the combination of scant parking spaces and overly diligent parking enforcement officers will be a death knell for their businesses and the district as a whole. "We don't want customers to not come here anymore because they got a ticket," said Mayra Vilva, an employee at La Maison House of Tattoos. "It's easier for our customers to have a reason not to come back than to come back."

But locals are hopeful that a solution has been found. After years of being off the market, an empty lot on the corner of Fairfax Avenue and Foothill Boulevard is for sale. "When I saw that it was available, I was like 'we gotta do something with this,'" said Watts, who is spearheading an effort to find investors who will purchase the lot and then rent it to the community. "This area is growing for the better ... And we can't just let it at that." ●

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Reference:
http://jalopnik.com/we-drove-the-261-mpg-volkswagen-xl1-in-manhattan-becaus-1412648104

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ARTS & CULTURE



BEST MONDAY PARTY

Motown on Mondays at the Legionnaire Saloon

2272 Telegraph Avenue, Oakland, 510-891-8660, LegionnaireSaloon.com

The best ideas often have a retrospective simplicity. What better cure for the Monday blues than a finger-snapping retro dance party? Such is the logic behind Motown on Mondays (MOM), a dance-floor franchise that started in San Francisco back in 2009 and has since expanded to eight cities including Oakland, Brooklyn, and Chicago. Its appeal is self-evident. At the Legionnaire Saloon — where gilt-framed portraits of English nobility share wall space with James Brown concert posters — patrons down $5 margaritas and throng the small dance floor, singing along with half-remembered classics like "Going to a Go-Go" and "My Guy." Later, the old hits give way to uptempo remixes — "Let's party our faces off!" cries the DJ — and things get politely funky. Lack of space limits most to a spirited two-step, but there are outbreaks of hand jive. Throughout the "Mom" acronym proves remarkably apt — this party is steeped in maternal solicitude. Mom knows Monday can be tough. She's pulled out her favorite records, and every one's going to dance.

BEST GRAPHIC MEMOIR

Over Easy by Mimi Pond

This tender, dishy quasi-memoir, based on Pond's stint as a waitress at Mama's Royal Cafe in the late Seventies, is both an ode to a bygone era and a loving lampoon of its prejudices. Denied financial aid at California College of Arts and Crafts (now known as simply the California College of the Arts), Margaret, a lonely art student, forgoes her fourth year and signs on at Tha Imperial Cafe, where the coffee is strong and the waitresses outfitted in thrift-store chic, are hard-boiled. There she learns to flirt and tell dirty jokes while serving a revolving cast of amiably stoned poets, punks, and dealers. Pond is an effortless, engaging humorist — her writing credits include episodes of *The Simpsons* and *Pee-Wee's Playhouse* — and she nails the details: the staff's bantering camaraderie, the cheerful, anything-goes hedonism, the fashion cutbacks. Her playful ink-and-watercolor drawings are equally charming, capturing vintage Oakland at its scruffy best. A touching memorial, *Over Easy* is also a monument to life's enduring virtues: friendship, rock 'n' roll, and perfectly cooked eggs.

BEST EAST BAY BOOK

Kinder Than Solitude, by Yiyun Li

YiyunLi.com

Some books are page-turners: the kinds of books you can't wait to zip through, bedtimes or deadlines or personal responsibilities of any kind be damned. Others are slow burners — the novels you want to be inside of forever, re-reading sentences and paragraphs over and over until they start to feel more like something you experienced than something you merely absorbed. And some


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1-2-3-4 Go! Records

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Ns Man s Land

vroungly are both. *Kinder Than Solitude*, the second novel by Oakland s own Yiyun Li, which starts with a mysterious poisoning and spins out from there, is both. A finely wrought, deeply absorbing literary thriller that takes its taunness not from plot but from character, not from big set pieces but quiet moments. It's exquisite

BEST OUTDOOR MUSIC SERIES

Point Richmond Music Festival

Park Pl. and Washington Ave., Richmond, 510-236-7435, PointRichmondMusic.com

There's no lack of free and cheap music events in the East Bay, especially with the ever-popular First Fridays street parties and the slew of new Oakland music festivals that have popped up of late. It can be easy to forget that there s a world of free music outside of Oakland, but the Point Richmond Music Festival is well worth the short trip north. The annual summer festival has been going strong for thirteen years, an impressive feat considering that the Point Richmond Music group, which produces the series, is entirely run by volunteers. The festival brings live music to the corner of Park Place and Washington Avenue in downtown Point Richmond every second Friday of the month from June through September. The family-friendly event features bands as well as other activities, such as face-painting, often drawing more than three hundred people from all over the Bay Area. There s no lack of interested talent, either. Festival organizers said that they reviewed nearly two hundred band submissions this season, allowing them to put together a mixed genre lineup as diverse as the festival audience.

BEST MOVIE THEATER FOR NON-MOVIE EVENTS

The New Parkway

474 24th St., Oakland, 510-658-7900, TheNewParkway.com

If you've only been going to the New Parkway to see movies, you've been missing out. With its comfy couches, cult-film showings, and food and drink options, it s obvious why the recently revived theater has become the go-to spot for movie-watching on Oakland. But the Parkway also has a lot to offer in terms of non-movie related events. This summer, for example, the theater screened most of the World Cup matches, so sports fans delight. It also hosts trivia nights, the lecture series Nerd Nite, regular viewings of *Mystery Science Theater 3000* screenings of television s greatest reality show *Ru Paul's Drag Race*, and a raucous sing-along event to R. Kelly's rap opera *Trapped in the Closet*, which regularly draws a crowd of about one hundred people. And recently, it's even started a monthly book club at which participants discuss books that have been turned into films.

BEST COMMUNITY ART CENTER

Richmond Art Center

2540 Barrett Ave., Richmond, 510-620-6772, TheRAC.org

Between its historically low crime rate and recent resurgence of progressive politics, Richmond has been on a winning streak lately and an essential part of the community's renewed sense of pride has been the Richmond Art Center. The center, which was founded in 1938 by local artist Hazel Sabin, has always been community focused, beginning as a traveling arts program for Richmond youth. It's now grown to serve a dual role as a showcase for emerging and established artistic talent as well as a place to learn artistic skills. The center celebrates Richmond residents with exhibits such as *Unlock the Talk: The American Teenager Project in Richmond*, which gave Richmond youth the opportunity to tell visual and oral stories about their years, and Jive and Java, in which the long-running artist discussion group "The Breakfast Group" relocated its weekly conversations about world events, movies, sports, and art to the center. And staying true to its roots, the center has continued to make teaching a core part of its programming. Each year, it serves 1,600 students through its art classes and last spring, instructors taught classes to 450 students in

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7/31 **Gorgeous Idea Talk:** Skins and Surfaces with Sampada Aranke
8/7 **My Gorgeous Fetish:** Rope, Flowers, Ink and Flesh with Midori
8/14 **Gorgeous Idea Talk.** Sex, Chocolate and Kimonos with Tina Takemoto
8/28 **Artists Drawing Club** Breathe with Jung Ran Bae
9/4 **Saya Woolfalk:** ChimaTEK with Original Music by DJ Spooky
9/11 **Gorgeous Idea Talk**–Behind Closed Doors with Michael Stabile

Asian Art Museum

SFMOMA on the go

This exhibition was organized by the Asian Art Museum in partnership with the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art. Presentation at the Asian Art Museum is made possible with the generous support of Prospect Hill Foundation, Fred Eychaner, Helen and Charles H. Schwab, Doris Fisher, The Samuel Peter Foundation, Unifrax, The Akiko Pregerson and Jerry Yang Fund for Excellence in Exhibitions and Presentations, Jim Hayes' William Middleton Brooks, Rita and Dean Cash, Suzanne and William Hohbach, Fred M. Levin and Nancy Livingston, The Meadows Foundation, Mrs. and Mary Jean Tighes, Pacific Gas & Electric Company, Lang Gallery at Warren Pelavin, Jean and James E. Douglas, Jr., and an anonymous Asian Image Fund. 2004–2006, by Marilyn Minter (American, b. 1948). Enamel on metal. Collection SFMOMA, Accessions Committee Fund purchase gift of Barbara and Beerits Spruth, Charles A. Bedrich III, Sharon and Bruce Beans, Nancy and Steven Oliver, and Francis and Paul Sack, 2010.56.A-F. © Marilyn Minter. Courtesy of the artist, 303 Gallery, and Salon 94, New York.

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Best place to make art: Linden Street Figure Drawing. Best Winner

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BEST PLACE TO MAKE ART

Linden Street Figure Drawing

510-926-0383

Meetup.com/Linden-Street-Figure-Drawing

For people stuck in nine-to-five jobs, finding the energy to pursue an artistic hobby in the evenings can be difficult. That's one of the reasons Linden Street Drawing, a weekly art meetup hosted by the longtime artist Sebastian Gabriel Hyde in his home (the address is given after you become a member), is so appealing. The three-hour Tuesday-night sessions give a group of roughly twenty artists an opportunity to draw a live nude model in a series of poses. The environment is very relaxed — the group listens to music and chats while drawing — but the session is fairly structured and always remains focused on the art. Models hold a number of short poses — some as quick as two minutes — at the start of the session, and then progress to longer ones toward the end. Hyde has been hosting the sessions for more than fifteen years and now has hundreds of members in his Meetup.com group. New artists are always welcome, and the sessions attract amateurs and professionals alike. A single class costs $12, or mem-


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READERS SAY THE DARNDEST THINGS

BEST ANNUAL EVENT

Athletics Opening Day!
Tailgating, beer baseball, friends, family OAKLAND! — Jimmie Carter

Burning Man
Because the streets of the East Bay are empty. — Jeff Greenwald

Hare Day
duh — Emily Sadatte

Smokin Fest
I can drink best all day without ending up in a gutter — Travis Camacho

Late Spring/Early Summer at the lake
unauthorized BBQs, unauthorized air shows, clean sneakers, baby geese. what else do you need? -- salelele

Northern California Pirate Festival
Arrr! — Danielle G

Reaper Bonanza
Two full days of superb music. The burgers, ah... — Tim Teichgraeber

Solano Stroll
A street festival on steroids during the best weather of the year — Mike Calsamiglia

Tourettes without regrets XXX show
It's an all out freedom fest of freaky art and love — camalis

This survey! — Desirée Rose

BEST ART GALLERY

Bella One
This gallery always has the dopest shows and the most engaging community events. It's a gallery that truly represents the diversity of the Bay Area. — N'jan

BEST ARTIST

Caitlin Hackett
Creepy but very cool — Travis Camacho

Ernest Doty
The man Can't Be Stopped — Kyle Ohlin

IAKTA
world known graffiti artist out of the bay who just keeps going. — lil_a

Invi
street art savvy with a lot of heady politics — spacechiclet

Jessica Polzin
She Loves Cats — Matthew Bartels

Joey Culby
She makes building a sustainable community an artform. Take THAT Banksy! — Jennifer Cosley

Kent Ali
He is great at everything — Will Bundy

Mimis Quick
Art bikes rule and he's the OG! Just ask all those crazy kids at Bike Party. Or check the cover of the *Express* Summer Guide! — Justino TenZoldam

BEST BAND
HEDPUCKEN
Oakland doom metal goodness — Reggie Potter

digital underground
forever — Jill Hartzler

Emily's Army
Come on ... they look like they're 16, but have the stage presence of the Stones! — Michael Alfaro

Go Van Bough
Playing 2 saxophones? Crazy! — Jessica

Gonnergraphy
Because Kathleen will slaughter me, and Brian will cry — ///C

The Uptones
Ska ain't dead. — Moose Muse

BEST DJ NIGHT AT A CLUB

DJ Maggy Sherbert
for his awareness of the local problem of Single's Flight, and everything he does to solve it. — Pilar Reyes

Russell Dunn
It's just fun watching him dance around. — Tim Teichgraeber

BEST LOCAL AUTHOR

Ayelet Waldman
or "bad mothers" get to stick together — Juanita Carroll Young

Mary Roach
Her books make science engaging for even the least interested readers — Jessica

Maya Angelou
Need you ask? — Kathleen O'Connor

Michael Pollan
He's changed my perspective on food... and life! — Lmorland

Luke Tsai
the very best — Desirée Rose

BEST MUSEUM

Oakland Museum of California
I'd love to know if there are others — orkin

BEST MUSIC VENUE

Stork Club
dirty and good — Joshua

Paramount
you can sit down — Jeana alba

BEST MUSIC FESTIVAL

Eastlake Music Festival
This is why I love in Oakland! — Jessica

BEST NEW ARTS VENUE

Studio Grand
Super sweet small intimate space where very cool eclectic and international music appears — Dario Andriesen

The Uptown
I know that it's not new ,but I really love the uptown. — keem holmes


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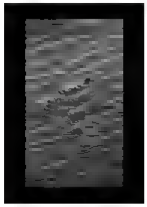
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DIRECTED BY TOM ROSS
APR/MAY 2015
DETROIT
BY LISA D'AMOUR
DIRECTED BY JOSH COBELLO
JUN/JUL 2015
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bers can pay $40 for a month of sessions. For hours of dedicated creative time, it's well worth the price.

BEST QUEER DANCE PARTY

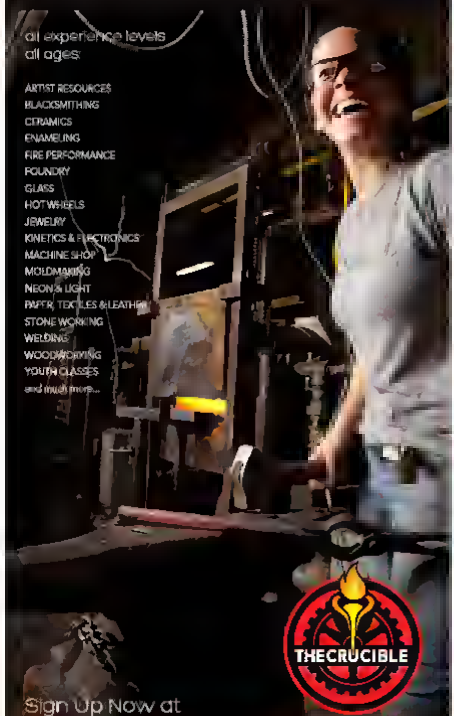
Good Times at Bench and Bar

510 17th St., Oakland, 510-444 2268
DJOlgaTnet/Events/Good-Times-Oakland

For more than four years, Olga Tevaltsian, DJ Olga T, brought Good Times to the Den at the Fox Theater, both literally and figuratively. But in May DJ Olga T decided to move the free Wednesday night party — produced by and for the East Bay queer community — to a venue that's an even better match for the Good Times crowd. Bench and Bar, one of the Bay Area's largest LGBT nightclubs, located a few blocks away in downtown Oakland. And the event has remained hugely popular in its new location, attracting about 150 to 200 people each week. It helps that there's no cover, $6 drink specials, and an eclectic mix of dance music — hip-hop, R&B, reggae, Latin, Nineties, and more — to please the diverse crowd it attracts. Good Times regularly spotlights queer DJs from around the Bay Area, and offers tables for LGBT nonprofit groups to do outreach. DJ Olga T and Good Times partner "Shugga" Shay Franco-Clausen market the event as a party for "women, trans queer boys/boys/girls, and allies" and emphasize that they foster a "culture of love and accep-

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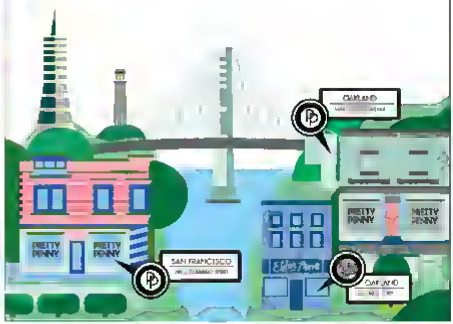
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tainer" — one that's sometimes absent from Bay Area queer events. As DJ Olga T likes to say *everyone* is welcome at Good Times

BEST EMERGING EAST BAY AUTHOR

Anthony Marra

AnthonyMarra.net

When the notoriously prickly *New York Times Sunday Book Review* calls your novel "extraordinary" in the first sentence of its review you know you've done well for yourself. Even more so when that descriptor is part of one of hundreds or possibly thousands of rhapsodic pieces declaring the book — in this case, *A Constellation of Vital Phenomena* — among the best of 2013. Also: When you're 29, and this is your first book. Ever. *Constellation* — a heartrending ardor of the physical and figurative wounds left after the Chechen Wars of the Nineties — is a life-affirming, gravity-defying, achingly imaginative utterly singular novel on the order of Tolstoy or Dostoyevsky "Extraordinary" indeed.

BEST EAST BAY BAND ON THE RISE

Trails and Ways

TrailsAndWays.com

Way back in 2013, when the *Express* first profiled Trails and Ways, the band was tentatives, largely unknown, and admittedly more comfortable recording in a bedroom than playing onstage. What a difference three years makes. The East Bay indie-pop foursome has now officially gone from locally famous to blog famous to famous famous based on the strength of its lush, light, world-inflected sound ("Casanova dream-pop" according to the band, "sleepily beautiful," according to TIME.com) As you read this, the band is crisscrossing the country for an already well attended and well received national tour in August it'll play Outside Lands. Suffice it to say these four appear to have gotten over the stage fright.

BEST PLACE TO ENJOY CHAMBER MUSIC

Benvenue House Music

2520 Benvenue Ave., Berkeley, 415-637-9617

BenvenueHouseMusic.org

Chamber music often sounds best in small rooms, which is why European musicians like to play intimate concerts inside homes. After living in Holland, where chamber music house concerts are common, cellist Tanya Tomkins decided to host similar events at her downtown Berkeley house. Since 2007 she and her partner Eric Zivian, a pianist, have hosted concerts at their home as part of Benvenue House Music, an organization that she co-founded as a nonprofit affiliate of the San Francisco Friends of Chamber Music. The pair also known as the Zivian Tomkins Duo, presents eight concerts each year and has brought a number of internationally acclaimed musicians to their home, which can seat about forty people. The concerts also provide performance opportunities for young musicians participating in Benvenue House Music's two-year apprenticeship program. Visiting guest artists coach the apprentices, culminating in concerts that feature youth artists and established professionals together. Supporters can buy annual subscriptions or pay by donation for individual concerts. The atmosphere feels more casual than a typical professional theater, but the quality of the music is

CATEGORIES WE DIDN'T THINK OF

BEST BOOKIE

Sarah Sanders

— Charis Thompson

BEST DANCE FLOOR

Ashkenaz Berkeley!

Big roomy dance floor and best place for dancing — Karen Wong

BEST AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

Oakland Public Conservatory of Music

Most kids who get current about music pursue study through private lessons, but that leaves a whole lot of kids out and we see the consequences in our monochromatic professional symphonies, etc. OPC Music takes the Public in it's name very seriously, recruiting and financially assisting children from all backgrounds and providing a curriculum that is both disciplined and joyously fun. A truly diverse student body learns music as a context of culture and history— everyone's story is relevant and important. It's profound and playful (ok, I kinda meant that pun..) — Laurie

BEST CULTURAL CENTER

Malonga Casquelord Center for the Arts

Incredible community with dance classes and performances, youth to adult- from all over african diaspora and more!!! — ingrid martin

BEST FILM ABOUT OAKLAND

First Friday by Kilan Eakins and Marie Forleo

— Rasch

BEST GOSPEL CHOIR

Oakland Interfaith Gospel Choir

INTERFAITH — an representative of Oakland and the East Bay - bonds as close — and they can SAAAAAANG! — Isa S. Chu

BEST EAST BAY STORYTELLER

Josh Kornbluth

There are many good ones, and Josh might win every year, so this is probably a pretty useless category — Jeff Greenvald

BEST NEW MAGAZINE

Wear Your Voice

All about Oakland! It highlights the best of women's fashion, music, art and business in REAL voices of the women who live here. — Tamara

BEST OPEN MIC

Missouri Lounge Wednesday Night Open Mic

— Crissy King

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Best As fan art, Oakland Stay mural — Brad Wenner

just as high — if not better, given the cozy living room setting.

BEST UNDERGROUND JAZZ SHOWS

Jazz in the Basement

César E. Chávez Student Center (basement) at UC Berkeley Facebook.com/UCJazz

In the spring of 2013, a group of UC Berkeley jazz musicians crowded into the basement of the César E. Chávez Student Center and jammed. The event coordinated by the student music group UC Jazz Ensembles, quickly blossomed into a more formal, and increasingly popular, monthly show that has since attracted relatively large crowds of students and off-campus audience members. The (literally) underground shows typically happen on the last Thursday of the month during the academic year and have featured a diverse range of musicians and styles — everything from small duos to eleven person combos playing funk, swing, hip-hop, jazz standards, freestyle, and much more. The performers tend to be current or former UC Berkeley students. For participating UC Jazz members, it's an opportunity to collaborate with classmates and gain performance experience in an intimate, low-pressure setting. And for audience members, it's a chance to hear talented and up-and-coming jazz musicians — at no cost. The group can cram about fifty to sixty audience members into the basement of the student center, which was often at capacity this past season. Even when it's jam packed though, Jazz in the Basement is an awesome way for jazz lovers in the East Bay to spend a Thursday night.

BEST AS FAN ART

Oakland Stay Mural

3rd and Washington Sts., Oakland, GoFundMe.com/OaklandStayMural

Oakland is awash in street art that brightens up blighted blocks and attracts interest from passersby. But the new Oakland Stay Mural in Jack London Square has reached a wider audience than the pedestrians who cross 3rd and Washington Streets. The mural — done by the TDK Collective, a group of Oakland aerosol artists — is a simple but effective plea to keep the A's in Oakland. Completed last winter, the mural features the word "STAY" in giant bubble letters, with a young fan on one side and Hall of Famer Rickey Henderson on the other side. Word of the mural spread far enough that Henderson himself reportedly drove by to catch a glimpse. The project is the second in the group's "Oakland is..." series, which celebrates the East Bay through public art. In addition to paying homage to Oakland's baseball team, the mural brings much-needed color to an otherwise dreary street and drab building façade.

BEST BERKELEY WALKING TOUR

Berkeley South Asian Radical History Walking Tour

BerkeleySouthAsian.org

Longtime Berkeley residents may think they know all about the city's radical past, but outside of the Free Speech Movement and the Vietnam War, the city's protest history is little well known. Thanks to the efforts of two particularly impassioned Berkeley historians, however, that legacy has come to light. More than a decade ago, Barnali Ghosh and Anurvan Chatterjee began documenting the South Asian community's history of protests in Berkeley, and in August 2012, they started the South Asian Radical History Walking Tour. On the tour, as a two-mile trek from Telegraph Avenue to Sproul Plaza to downtown, Ghosh and Chatterjee describe events from more than one hundred years ago — like when sixteen South Asian students at UC Berkeley protested a talk by a Christian evangelist — as well as more recent activism, like the protests at Berkeley High against hate crimes after 9/11. To date, they've given 55 tours to 805 people. Their earnestness and enthusiasm is contagious and leads newcomers and lifers alike to see their city in a radical new light.

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GOODS & SERVICES



BEST ORGANIC FARMING SUPPLY SHOP

Pollinate Farm and Garden

2727 Fruitvale Ave., Oakland, 510-535-2483, PollinateFarm.com

There's no lack of urban farmers in Oakland, and for those passionate about organic and sustainable agriculture, there's no better shop than Pollinate Farm and Garden. The "local general store with a twist" opened its doors in 2013 as Fruitvale and provides supplies for organic farming and gardening, small-scale livestock cultivation, food preservation, and beekeeping. The store promotes "seed-to-table" gardening and farming with a wide range of supplies including ready-to-plant vegetable seedlings, garden soils, irrigation supplies, composting equipment, organic pest management supplies, an organic fertilizer bar, and much more. The founders — Birgit Evans, an Alameda County Master Gardener, and Yolanda Burrell, a member of the Alameda County Beekeepers Association and Alameda Backyard Growers — are both supporters of the DIY food movement and have grown their operation into much more than just a store. Pollinate Farm and Garden hosts speaker series and hands-on DIY workshops on a wide range of topics. Those opportunities make the business a great space for amateur urban farmers to mingle with the experts — and buy the supplies they need to become pros.

BEST BIKE SHOP CUSTOMER SERVICE

Tip Top Bike Shop

4800A Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-444-4148, TipTopBikeShop.com

As soon as you enter Tip Top Bike Shop, it's clear that this is a family-owned and family-friendly business. That's because these days, husband-and-wife store owners Richard and Charlotte Oelerich regularly bring their adorable nine-month-old girl to work. But the baby has not slowed down the Temescal bike shop, which, despite its location in hipster central, has remained unpretentious and inviting to cyclists of all levels. The Oakland couple opened their neighborhood shop in 2007; now, the store has a small crew of dedicated cyclists on staff who are passionate about bikes without being condescending toward newbies and amateurs. The shop is invested in everyday riders, as opposed to racers, and offers a relaxed environment for cyclists to discuss repairs or purchases with knowledgeable and approachable cycling experts. And the shop's repairs are relatively affordable and usually pretty quick, even on busy weekends. The owners also offer free adjustments for any bike purchased at Tip Top.

BEST PLACE TO BUY AQUAPONICS GARDENS

Kijani Grows

1560 Mandela Pkwy, Oakland, 510-778-7814, KijaniGrows.com

Even among the many creative and innovative projects housed inside American Steel Studios in West Oakland, Kijani Grows stands out. The aquaponics company makes garden systems in which plants and fish grow together through an efficient water recycling mechanism. In other words, it's a sustainable, half fish tank half-garden that turns fish waste into plant nutrients. No soil is required, and the gardens, which can be placed indoors or outdoors, basically take care of themselves — especially because they use "smart" systems, meaning they rely on sensors that automatically monitor factors like water flow rates and send real-time alerts through Twitter or text message, allowing gardeners to monitor their aquaponics remotely. Kijani Grows produces and installs these systems for homes, schools, and offices, and also offers courses in aquaponic garden design. When done right, the systems are also a reliable source of fresh, organic veggies — making them much more valuable than your average fish tank.

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BEST MEDICAL CANNABIS CLINIC

Compassionate Health Options

1322 Webster St., Oakland, 510-465-9620
Green215.com

Unfortunately, the ongoing stigma surrounding medical marijuana creates problems for people who try to bring it up with their primary care physician — most of whom know nothing about cannabis. Stepping into that service gap are physicians who specialize in determining whether a person may benefit from medical marijuana. Compassionate Health Options (CHO) is a statewide chain with fourteen offices including one centrally located on Webster Street in downtown Oakland. Founded by Dr. Hosyn Berth, the Oakland branch is relatively efficient, professional and friendly as clinics go and its prices are competitive. You make an appointment, then bring your valid state identification and any medical records and medications relevant to the visit as well as payment. After seeing the doctor, you get two letters of recommendation and an ID card. CHO keeps your medical records private and does not release patient information to anyone without prior written consent of the patient.

BEST MEDICAL CANNABIS DELIVERY SERVICE

C.R.A.F.T. Collective

Berkeley, 855-863-2728, BayAreaCraft.org

Medical cannabis delivery services dot the entire Bay Area, and competition among them is fierce. And with competition comes excellence, namely C.R.A.F.T. Collective in Berkeley. This small group of veteran indoor pot growers has put together a boutique line of organic weed. Everything is top notch and selected for its exquisite smell, taste and effect. Grown indoors in Oakland, C.R.A.F.T. buds are certified "Clean Green," making them as organic as they get in Bay Area pot. The service has a fat selection of buds, concentrates, edibles, topicals and accessories. Its Durban sativa is legendary among chronnoisseurs. The Blueberry OG is just as perfect. Canaaloupe OG and Raspberry Cookies? Equally flawless. But the best deal might be the $180 ounce of C.R.A.F.T. Skywalker OG Baby Buds. C.R.A.F.T.'s "small" buds look, smell and taste better than many a club's best.

BEST MEDICAL CANNABIS DISPENSARY SELECTION

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1840 Embarcadero, Oakland, 888-994-2728
HarborsideHealthCenter.com

Colorado and Washington are getting all the spotlight, but California remains the economic center of the cannabis industry in America. Though statewide regulations are sorely lacking, a vast network of small batch artisanal farmers supplies dispensaries with a period or two of their finest cuts. Competition is fierce and Bay Area patients can rest assured — they have the best broadest selection of bud in the world. There is no better place to take an olfactory odyssey than at Harborside Health Center. The world's larg

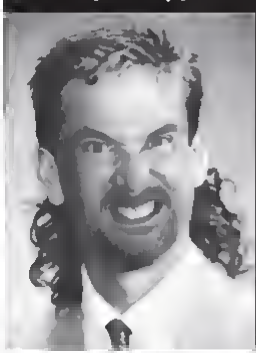


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Best arts-retail combo space SoleSpace — Brad Wanner

set dispensary has more than 100 000 collective members and its size creates its own kind of gravity pulling in the best growers from across the state. If you can't find it at Harborside, it's probably not worth finding. Indoor. Outdoor. High THC. High CBD. Topicals. Tinctures. Dab rigs. Clones. Hardbound has achieved a kind of critical mass unprecedented in weed culture that must be experienced to be believed.

BEST ARTS-RETAIL COMBO SPACE

SoleSpace

1714 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-306-1585, SoleSpace.com

In recent years, Oakland has seen a rise in art galleries that have found creative ways to pay the bills. But no local shop better epitomizes this creative business model better than the shoe-store-slash-art-venue SoleSpace, which sells shoes and apparel by day and hosts a wide range of arts and community events by night. Co-founders Jeff Perlstein and Fayanna Rodriguez set up their downtown Oakland shop so that the shoe displays and shirt racks are on wheels and can efficiently be rolled aside to make space for all kinds of art shows and live events. Since its launch in November of 2012, SoleSpace has featured new shows by local artists every month or so while also hosting an array of unique workshops, such as women's drumming classes and music and movement sessions for young children. That's in addition to poetry events, live music shows, film series, and more. SoleSpace places an emphasis on social justice and frequently donates its space to local nonprofit and advocacy groups. All the while, shoe sales keep the wheels turning.

BEST YOUTH TRAINING PROGRAM

EMS Corps of Alameda County

100 San Leandro Blvd., San Leandro, 510-618-2020, www.ACPHD.org/EMS Corps.aspx

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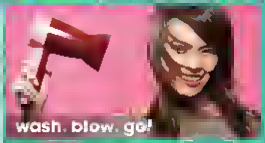




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READERS SAY THE DARNDEST THINGS

BEST ARTS AND CRAFTS SUPPLIES

Michael's
Big corporation actually doing it right. — me

Rockwell
Cheap is cheap. — kevin holmes

Linda
Where else can you find corset making and lacemaking supplies? — Robynne

BEST BAGELS

Authentic Bagel Co.
That moment when the bickering bagel brothers pause to thank you by name. — adelaide

Beauty's Bagels
Take it from the grandchild of Eastern European Jewish immigrants, these are solid bagels. — michael altfest

BEST BAKERY

Feel Good Bakery
Their chocolate croissants are worth wiping home about, if you happen to be French. — Ali Neuenschwander

Mariposa
I can't stand gluten-free "bread," but I think what they're doing is great. — Jeff Greenwald

Rainbow
If I ever get swept up in a tornado to outsmart witches and dethrone a wizard, I want my ruby slippers to bring me back here. This is baking for your nose and your mouth, and boy are they in heaven. Giant brown sugar snails, moist cinnamon twists, fresh fruit Danish, BOB (banana oat bran) muffins... and love music by local musicians. This is home-style baking when grandma (or great grandma) was not afraid of butter. I knew what she was doing and took the time to do it. Yummmmmmmmmmmm. — Laurie

Peppie's Donuts
Vegan Donuts DO taste good! — Kathleen O'Connor

Sweet Bar
As I huff and puff on the treadmill at the YMCA, I can see Sweet Bar bakery across the street. The only thing that makes working out worth it, is knowing that I can go across the street and get some insanely delicious treat afterwards. — N'yen

BEST BARBERSHOP

Jerry's
As old school as it gets, plus playboys to read. What else would you want? — Lucas banks

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BETTER THAN PLACES IN ITALY — Luigi zoh

launched "My Brother's Keepers" an initiative aimed at empowering boys and young men of color — a population that faces high rates of unemployment and is disproportionately represented in the criminal justice system. One of the organizations partnering with the White House is the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, which, for years has helped the EMS Corps of Alameda County accomplish a similar mission. The five-month EMS Corps program, run by the Alameda County Public Health Department, gives young men ages 18-26 an opportunity to train for careers in emergency medical services, while also offering life coaching, mentoring, mental health and wellness support and more. Since it launched in 2011 EMS Corps has graduated six classes and a total of nearly one hundred students, and most are now employed or in college. The participants are primarily men of color from low-income communities — and the ones who advance to become EMTs or enter other related positions often end up serving neighborhoods in which they have deep roots. In this way, the program is working to increase the number of local EMTs of color while also uplifting a population that is often overlooked and underserved.

BEST CRONUT SUBSTITUTE

Pizzaiolo

3008 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-652-4888, PizzaioleOakland.com

In many ways, this has been the year of the Cronut™ — the New York City pastry chef Dominic Ansel's doughnut-croissant hybrid spun from being a cult favorite to a world-wide sensation, seemingly overnight. Not surprisingly, the East Bay has seen no shortage of copycat versions, many of them too sweet too oily and just too much altogether. Of the many that we tasted, Pizzaiolo pastry chef Kiri Mah's comparatively understated miniature "cronut" was the clear-cut winner. Finally, we understood the hype — the crisp flakiness of a croissant married seamlessly with the cool vanilla-flecked center of a next-level cream doughnut. Mah's version stood apart for being surprisingly ungreasy and light — not diet food, certainly, but indulgent without making you feel like a bloated glutton. The labor-intensive cronut is only sporadically available during Pizzaiolo's morning coffee-and-doughnuts service, usually only on holidays (say, Thanksgiving weekend or National Doughnut Day) and with little advance notice. Count yourself lucky if you snag one.

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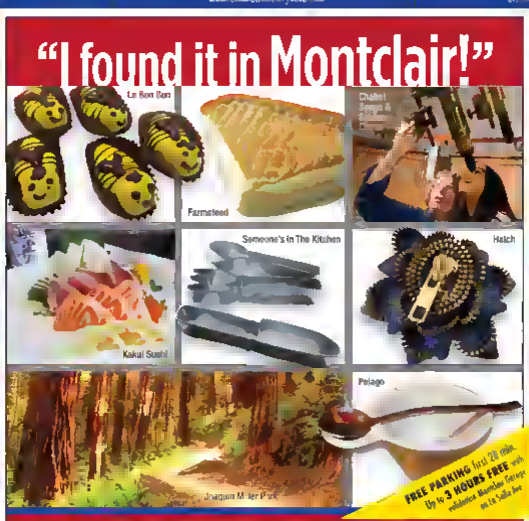
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Best place to shop for an urban explorer: Elder and Pine — Brad Wenner

erty. For two, it's a city-licensed dispensary with a vast, expertly curated selection and knowledgeable staff. For three, it's got reams of free parking on the street and in the parking lot in the back, as well as security guards watching the whole place. In and out in ten minutes, and we're back to the grind. Thanks, Bliss!

BEST HEAD SHOP

The Vault Smoke Shop

1200 Suite B Newell Ave., Walnut Creek
925-926-0777 VaultSmokeShop.com

Walnut Creek — with its leafy broad boulevards and suburban populace — is a breeding ground for angst. There's just something about the sleepy heavenly façade that doesn't make sense — something that our primitive brains keep trying to wake up from. Over on Newell Street, next to Whole Foods and Macy's, we found solace at The Vault Smoke Shop. It carries all manner of items that church-going folk don't approve of. Ornate bongs, scientific-looking bubblers, the latest vaporizers, hookahs and accessories and supplies. Founded in 2011, the shop's staffers handpick selections of American-made glass art from Hitman, PHX, Zob, Mobius, and more. We've spotted heady stuff from Darby Helm, Salt Glass, Snic, and Merc as well. Walnut Creek bans medical cannabis dispensaries. But combine delivery services with The Vault, and patients east of the Caldecott tunnels do just fine.

HEADIEST PIPE ART CLASSES

Revere Glass

1345 Eighth St., Berkeley, 510-238-3473, RevereGlass.com

Part of the East Bay's *Portlandia*-like charms is the DIY movement. Brew your own beer. Grow your own pot. Shoot, make your own pipes. Riding that wave is Revere Glass in Berkeley, which instructs people who simply want to make a terrarium, as well as helps launch the careers of aspiring pipers. (That's "glassblower." Learn the lingo.) This is a legit, crunchy, tattooed, heady pipe shop in the industrial area of Berkeley off Gilman Street and San Pablo Avenue. Revere's got lathes, burners, kilns, oxygen, and explosive propane. Of course the folks there are teddy bears and will host corporate outings or a birthday party for fourteen-year-olds. High-schoolers can do coursework with parental approval. Online classes start at $40, while The Revere Pipe Making Program — an in-depth study of the art of pipe making — runs $4,999.

BEST PLACE TO SHOP FOR AN URBAN EXPLORER

Elder and Pine

423 40th St., Oakland, 510-420-1080, ElderandPine.com

Elder and Pine is among the many reasons the strip of 40th Street between Broadway and Telegraph is on the up and up. The men's clothing and accessory store, which stocks mostly vintage, is a shining example of what makes the East Bay so great. Its casual section of flannels, old rock n' roll T-shirts, printed button-downs, and cozy sweatshirts are all hip and happening. The staff is unpretentious, and the prices are incredibly reasonable. In addition to clothing and shoes, Elder and Pine has a killer selection of Poler backpacks that are as appropriate for the street as they are for the trail, as well as blankets and stylish gifts for the outdoorsy person in your life — think pipe-scented candles, field notebooks, pocket knives, sunglasses, and water bottles. And don't forget the beard oil.

BEST CANNED BEER SELECTION

Berkeley Bowl West

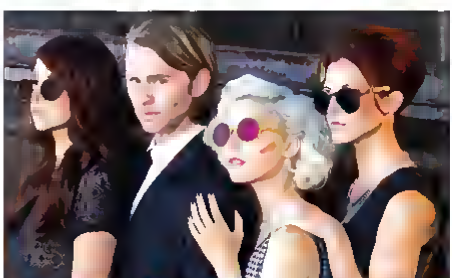
920 Heinz Ave., Berkeley, 510-898-9555, BerkeleyBowl.com

Do cans or bottles preserve beer better? The debate rages on, but there's a clear winner when it comes to convenience. Cans are more portable, more durable, and faster to chill. More craft breweries than ever are choosing to can their beers, which is a boon to those who love to drink outdoors. The beer selection at Berkeley Bowl West has always been awe-inspiring, but lately the beloved





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my kid won't go anywhere else — annamor

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Coops do it better' — Innosanto Nagara

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Pegasus
They have my favorite things. Books and cats. — Ann Ayers
every bookstore is the best!
— Desiree Rose

BEST BOUTIQUE
Urban Stitch
If they sold more things, I would buy them — Marisa Raya

BEST BREWERY
Drake's Brewing Company
A brewery in San Leandro? Who knew? And the best part is their beer — Ali Neesemkwander

BEST CAR REPAIR
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BEST FREAKING GARAGE, EVER!! — Ashley

BEST EYEGLASS SHOP
Focal Point
Hip looks for hipsters — Jim Parker

BEST FURNITURE STORE
IKEA
And I hate myself for saying it. — Jeff Greenwald

BEST GROCERY STORE
Berkeley Bowl
If you survive the parking lot you're in heaven. — Margo Rivera-Wane
My husband loves it so much he's planning to put a cot there and use it as his second home. — Ruth H.
Mandela Foods Cooperative
They have all the things I want and all the things I haven't yet realized I want. — sdelale

BEST PLACE FOR SMOKING ACCESSORIES
Omni
Seriously. Stop encouraging this. It's disgusting. If you must get high off nicotine or marijuana, just eat it and stop polluting. — Amelia Manlove

BEST PLANT NURSERY
Plants, etc. — Renata Gray

grocery store has been rocking a vast (and ever-increasing) collection of canned beers. Some of the best include Scalpin, San Diego brewery Ballast Point's award-winning IPA, and Stiegl's Radler which is ideal for laidback summertime drinking, as it's made with half beer and half grapefruit soda. And of course, there are canned beers from 21st Amendment and Sierra Nevada, if you prefer to drink locally. So if you are planning a camping trip, prepping for a beach outing or simply wanting to stock as many beers as possible into your cooler, Berkeley Bowl West is sure to make you happy.

BEST HOMEBREW SUPPLIES

MoreBeer!

995 Detroit Ave. Unit G, Concord, 925 771 7107 MoreBeer.com

An awesome East Bay success story, MoreBeer! supplies legions of homebrew enthusiasts with the equipment to make the ales of their dreams, and they run the whole enterprise out of Concord. MoreBeer! began in a backyard shed in 1995 as Beer, Beer, and More Beer! and now has dozens of employees spread out over multiple locations across the United States, including a 30,000-square-foot order fulfillment warehouse in Pennsylvania. In 2013 the company expanded its metal fabrication shop to 7,000 square feet in order to meet increased demand and make more cool products. Custom lists include everything suburbanites or Mission hipsters need to start brewing today. MoreBeer! has also expanded into wine with MoreWine! to become the number-one winemaking supply company nationwide. The company matches seriously beloved customer service with a website full of brew-preserving information. MoreBeer!, indeed!

BEST UNDERGROUND DESSERT SHOP

Gregory's Gourmet Desserts

285 23rd St., Oakland 510-872-8722, GregorysGourmetDesserts.com

This tiny broom closet of a bakery in Uptown Oakland is only open to the public for a few hours each Wednesday and Friday and the first time you go, you'll probably do a double take when you see the crowd of people lined up outside the unconspicuous basement door — dessert junkies lined up to get their fix. But you'll likely become a regular yourself after one taste of dessert maestro Gregory Williams' unique cheesecake creations: the lemony crème brûlée-inspired Ugly Duckling, or the Oreo-crusted Best Milkshake. The texture of the cheesecakes is second to none — unbelievably smooth and creamy. And the bakery's assortment of dazzlingly fruit packed cobblers and still warm-from-the-oven cookies is no slouch either. Put it this way: For those of us who try to watch our waistlines, it's probably a good thing Gregory's is only open twice a week.

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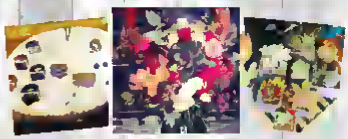
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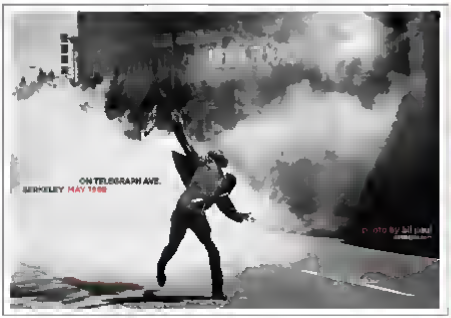
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Best tattoo artist for first timers: Jason McAfee — Brad Wenner

If you're looking for a quick clean, you may want to consider going elsewhere, because they'll spend up to an hour and a half making sure your ear leaves the lot looking immaculate inside and out. (Pro tip: Bring something to read.) The top is worth the wait. You can count on your windows being wiped on both sides, and your tires, rims, and even the inside of your wheel well left looking spotless. Service is friendly and no detail is spared. Note that it's cash-only although there is an ATM on site.

BEST TATTOO ARTIST FOR FIRST-TIMERS

Jason McAfee at Temple Tattoo

384 17th St., Oakland, 510-451-8423, TempleOakland.com

Paying a complete stranger to brand something permanent into your skin via a giant needle is terrifying enough. The last thing you need is an artist who fails to properly walk you through the process — or worse yet, some smug, be-sleeved tat veteran looking down his nose at you for not being covered in ink already. Enter Temple Tattoo's Jason McAfee, who is yes a be-sleeved tat veteran, but who is also about the furthest thing from smug you can imagine — just an experienced, friendly artist with the calmness of a yoga teacher, the steady hand of a surgeon, and, perhaps most importantly, the patience of a kindergarten teacher ever willing to humor stupid questions and last-minute panic attacks. That needle may never stop being a little scary, but the person wielding it doesn't have to be

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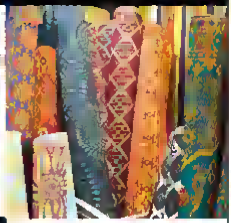
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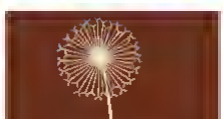
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on Days of Rwanda in Tin world
—Desiree Rose

BEST SEX SHOP
Fashion Silk
is there really another option? —Christina Bohn

The first time I was there, I bought a vibrator and Eddie Murphy's first comedy album on vinyl. —N'yen

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Pretty Penny
I can't save any money because I spend it all here. —Georgia Brown

BEST VETERINARIAN
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Bunny whisperer — danielleliy

BEST PLACE TO BUY A UNIQUE HOUSEPLANT

Crimson Horticultural Rarities

470 49th St., Oakland 510-992-3359
CrimsonHort.com

Crimson Horticultural Rarities in Temescal Alley has a delightfully wide array of unique-looking houseplants, including succulents. Everywhere you turn, you'll find beguiling finds, whether it's a hanging plant with delicate tendrils, a dark-green fern that looks like it belongs in a rain forest, or a potted shrub whose leaves are streaked with purple and pink. The store also stocks a wide array of containers to hold the greenery. Crimson's plants make great gifts because the store's owners have an eye for picking out unique and rare plants, but beware — you may be tempted to buy something for yourself. The store is full of other knickknacks that would make interesting gifts as well, including paper products. Stop by frequently because new plants arrive all the time.

BEST BONSAI TREE NURSERY

Grove Way Bonsai Nursery

1238 Grove Way, Hayward, 510-537-1157

The Japanese word "bonsai" means "tree in a pot," but don't let this simple descriptor fool you. To truly understand the many forms this ancient practice can take, get thee to Grove Way Bonsai Nursery. The Hayward nursery, which was started by bonsai master Johnny Uchida in 1971, is known for its large selection of hard-to-find species many of which are decades, if not centuries, old. There's an eight hundred-year-old bonsai tree on the grounds, as well as a Japanese black pine that Master Uchida brought over on a plane from Japan in the late Sixties. The prices can range from a couple hundred to a thousand dollars, but at Grove Way, you're paying for quality. All of Grove Way's trees are cultivated and pruned for years by Master Uchida, who also teaches bonsai classes at the Castro Valley Adult School. His knowledge and helpful tips are other reasons why bonsai enthusiasts of all skill levels visit the store.

BEST JUICE

The Juice Bar Collective

2114 Vine St., Berkeley, 510-548-1473
TheJuiceBar.org

It's hard to imagine a more quintessentially Berkeley business than the Juice Bar Collective. It has been owned and operated by its employees since opening in 1976, uses eco-friendly practices in its business operations and makes its juices and pastries with almost entirely organic ingredients. But beyond all of its Berzerkeley mess, it's also got the best fresh juice around. Its organic carrot and orange juices are always made to order and contain just the right amount of sweetness without any added sugar. If you want to mix it up a bit (pun intended), you can get the fifty/fifty orange and carrot juice blend or add kale, fresh ginger, beets, celery, apple, strawberries (when in season), protein powder and/or spirulina powder as well. The carrot, kale and beet blend is especially delicious when accompanied by the collective's famous black bean polenta. The joint is tiny and doesn't have much seating, but there are a couple tables outside, and there's always Live Oak Park just a few blocks away if you want to turn your meal into a picnic in true North Berkeley style.

BEST GLUTEN-FREE BREAD PRODUCT

Odd Bagel

Berkeley Bowl West, Farley's East, and other locations listed at OddBagel.com

It's hard enough to get a decent bagel of any kind in the Bay Area, asking for one that's gluten-free just seems like delusion. But here's the honest truth: Oakland based Odd Bagel sells gluten-free bagels — made with a mix of rice flour, potato flour, tapioca starch, and xanthan gum — that are chewy, more flavorful, and more "bagely" than most of the wheat-flour varieties in the market. Mostly it's a texture thing. So many of the gluten-free breads we've tasted are dry, chalky and strangely insubstantial once you put them in your mouth. Not so with these dense, tight crumbed beauties, which have a satisfying snap to their crust and are pleasantly chewy enough to please even the most discerning bagel purist. Enjoy toasted or untoasted, with or without the requisite East Coast schmear.

MOST DECADENT CROISSANT HYBRID

Fournée Bakery

2912 Domingo Ave., Berkeley,
510-549-8434, FourneeBakery.com

In an artisanal pastry landscape dotted with the efforts of chefs trying to catch lightning in a bottle, Cronut-style, it might surprise you that the East Bay's tastiest and most decadent variation on a croissant — the ham and egg croissant — comes from its most traditional French bakery. While regulars have dubbed


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to all the local bars and restaurants participating in this year's Drink to Donate program. With their help we are able to raise funds for Bike East Bay, a local bicycle non-profit, who is helping us bring bike lanes to Telegraph Ave. Go visit your local participating bar or restaurant and have a drink to benefit a great cause *

For more info on how to bring Bike Lanes to Telegraph Ave and donate to Bike East Bay go to BikeEastBay.org

TELEGRAPH

Telegraph Beer Garden
2313 Telegraph Ave. Oakland, CA
TelegraphOakland.com

Marc 49
4915 Telegraph Ave. Oakland, CA
Marc49.com

actual cafe

Actual Café
6334 San Pablo Ave. Oakland, CA
ActualCafe.com

Hi-Life
400 15th St. Oakland, CA
HiLifeOakland.com

Kingston

Kingston 11
2270 Telegraph Ave. Oakland, CA
KingstonTEats.com

NIGHT LIGHT

The Night Light
311 Broadway Oakland CA
TheNightLightOakland.com

Stork Club
2330 Telegraph Ave. Oakland, CA
StorkClubOakland.com

Rudy's Can't Fail
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Fournée Bakery the undisputed champ of laminated dough, most of the bakery's offerings are fairly conservative: textbook-perfect plain croissants, baguettes, and the like. But there's nothing dull about its ham-and-egg masterpiece — a crisp cushion of ham wrapped around a whole cloud of an egg, all swaddled in layers of flaky buttery croissant dough. It's a triumph of classical French baking techniques — or maybe just the perfect self-contained breakfast sandwich.

BEST ICE CREAM OR GELATO SHOP FOR THE HEALTH CONSCIOUS

Caravaggio Gelateria Italiana

1797 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-900-2401, Facebook.com/CaravaggioGelateriaItaliana

Read online reviews for Berkeley's newest high-end gelateria and mostly what you'll find is happy customers waxing poetic about how authentically Italian the gelato at Caravaggio is — how they haven't had anything like it since that one summer they studied abroad in Rome or Milan or wherever. And all of that is apt enough. But co-owner Emiliano Cecchetti, a genuine Italian with a background in materials science, also has ambitions of starting a health revolution in the gelato world. So while his gelato are made using bone-tested traditional techniques, they are also lactose-free and formulated with Falatinose a naturally occurring sugar substitute. The result is gelato that's barely sweet at all — a shock to the American palate — but still creamy and true to the flavor of the featured ingredient. The nut flavors in particular are an intensely flavorful, but relatively guilt free, indulgence. You might as well go ahead and have a second scoop.

BEST KOMBUCHA

Cultured Pickle Shop

2900 Bancroft Way #105, Berkeley, 510-540-5185, CulturedPickleShop.com

Cultured Pickle Shop produces kombuchas that go beyond the typical supermarket infusions of fruit and fermented tea. Bright, effervescent, and delicately balanced between sweet and tart, Cultured's kombucha is reminiscent of the complex, botanically inspired cocktails that are so trendy nowadays. It's also made in small batches — think just two dozen bottles, in some cases — in farmers market-inspired flavors. Deeply vegetal beet and celery kombuchas are mainstays. But blank and you might miss some of the company's excellent seasonal kombuchas, such as strawberry-basil-wheatgrass, cherry blossom, and watermelon-jalapeño. These head-turning kombuchas can be drunk for their healthful properties, sure, but they're delicious enough to be enjoyed on the merits of taste, too. Cultured's kombuchas can be found at its Berkeley shop and at Berkeley's Tuesday and Saturday farmers' markets.

BEST OLD-FASHIONED BOOK BINDERY

Pettingell Book Bindery

2181 Bancroft Ave., Berkeley 510-845-3653, PettingellBookBindery.com

True artisanship can be hard to find, but this Berkeley bookbinding business is a throwback to the days when craftspeople paid attention to detail and paper products weren't mass-

CATEGORIES WE DIDN'T THINK OF

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Homestead Apothecary
— Nicholas Weinstein

BEST ART CLASSES
Richmond Art Center
— Richard Ambrose

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BEST ECOLOGICAL TREASURE TROVE
East Bay Depot for Creative Reuse
— Celeste Connor

BEST NAIL SALON
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— Ann Thai

BEST LOCAL MAGAZINE
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a new collective puts out three issues a year on radical parenting — tomas

BEST BAR FOR AVOIDING FIRST FRIDAY NONSENSE
Ruby Room
— David Kenneth McEvoy Sparks Finke

BEST TOUR
Saver Oakland Food Tours
Showcases history, culture and food in Oakland — Geny

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— Jason

BEST DOG WALKER
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produced on an assembly line. Owner and bookbinder Klaus Ulli Rotzscher was born and raised in Germany, and his painstaking work can be seen in every page he puts together. He began his career in Leipzig in the 1970s as an apprentice, before serving as a journeyman for four years and earning two master's degrees in bookbinding. Now Rotzscher's shop serves as both a working studio and a retail space, where customers can browse Rotzscher's premade products — beautiful journals in smooth leather and snakeskin, handsome marbled notepads, elegant portfolios, greeting cards, labels cases, and seasonal items — or ask for custom made orders. Rotzscher's also specializes in repairing aging family heirlooms and sacred texts.

BEST GROCERY STORE

Piedmont Grocery

4038 Piedmont Ave., Oakland, 510-653-8181 PiedmontGrocery.com

Sure Berkeley Bowl has the cool, Grocery Outlet has the rock-bottom prices, and Trader Joe's has that adorable nautical theme. But long before any of those were even a figment in some entrepreneurial soul's imagination, there was Piedmont Grocery which has quietly been supplying Piedmont Avenue and the surrounding environs with reasonably priced and well-selected groceries since the Roosevelt administration — the *first* Roosevelt administration. It's also cleverly laid out, one of the few remaining independently owned, full-service grocery stores in the Bay Area and staffed by the friendliest and most helpful baggers, butchers, stockers, and checkers in the known universe. Don't miss the grade-A bocce selection, the free parking, or the uncommonly classy hot food buffet (think vegan Indian food and roasted salmon, not pathetic, deli style chicken tenders baking under a heat lamp). Or the cheese samples. Definitely don't miss the cheese samples.

BEST DESIGNER CONSIGNMENT SHOP

Knimble Clothing & Knick-Knack

3258 Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-645-1314, Knimble.com

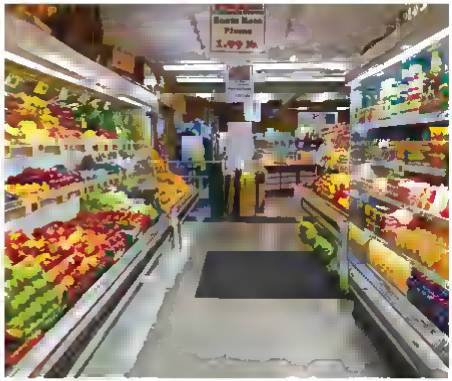
When you step into Knimble Clothing & Knick-Knack, it's easy to forget that you're standing among previously worn clothes, not in a high priced designer boutique. This consignment shop is set up to be spare. It's upscale, with dishes, antique furniture, and Eastern-inspired fans on display. In addition to recycled clothing, the store offers a gift section, mostly with new items, that are "eco friendly, fair trade, and locally made." The first Knimble opened in 2005 in Cotati by Amanda Messenger. She opened a second store in San Rafael in 2012 and then a third store in Oakland last year, proving that the Bay Area loves it some unique, recycled clothing and wares.

BEST LATE-NIGHT COFFEE

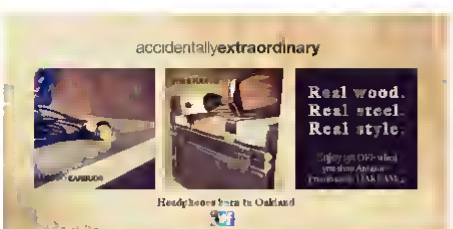
Gaylord's Caffe Espresso

4150 Piedmont Ave., Oakland, 510-658-2877

Finding a decent coffee shop in Oakland that's open late — especially one with Wi Fi — can be surprisingly difficult. So if you want to hang away at your laptop late into the evening and require caffeine to fuel your work, Gaylord's Caffe Espresso is the best option in town. The Piedmont Avenue shop is a great, cozy alternative to the very nearby — and often quite crowded — Starbucks and Peet's outlets, and even though the area is saturated with high-quality cafes,



Best grocery store: Piedmont Grocery — Brad Warner



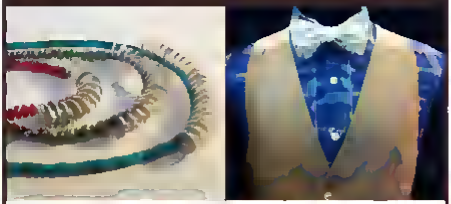




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Gaylord's deserves recognition for keeping its doors open until midnight seven days a week. Gaylord a charges a dollar for Wi-Fi access, which can be frustrating, but seems to help ensure that the place doesn't become two-jan parked with laptops. Plus, the Mexican mochas are astounding, and the latte foam designs — elephants, deer, and beans, okay — and art on the walls remind customers that they are definitely not patronizing a chain coffeehouse.

BEST PLACE TO BUY BEE-FRIENDLY PLANTS

Berkeley Horticultural Nursery

1310 McGee Ave., Berkeley, 510 526-4704, BerkeleyHort.com

The best plant foods for bees are ones completely free of toxic pesticides. But at many home garden stores, plants are regularly contaminated with poisonous pesticides — even ones with "bee-friendly" labels. Not at Berkeley Horticultural Nursery. When shopping at this family-owned retail nursery in North Berkeley, you can feel confident that your plant purchases won't inadvertently be harming urban pollinators. As part of its "Bee-Friendly Project," the nursery doesn't use or sell pesticides that experts believe are behind the alarming decline of honeybees in the US. The retailer communicates directly with its growers to ensure that the plants they are supplying to the nursery have not been treated with dangerous pesticides. While you can't always be certain that every plant is truly pesticide-free — because growers may not always know or reveal whether their seed vendors use pesticides — at Berkeley Hort, products with the "California Certified Organic" label are a 100-percent bee-friendly bet.

MOST EFFICIENT ORTHODONTIST OFFICE

Righellis and Associates

2220 Mountain Blvd., Oakland 510-482-8800 RighellisOrtho.com

The Montclair office of Steaty Righellis and Associates is a well-oiled machine. The tooth doctors never seem to run late. Toothbrushes, already stocked with toothpaste await patients at the door. A slide-show of "before" and "after" images of patients' mouths and beaming smiles graces the waiting room, so people who can't wait for straight teeth can see what they will look like one day. One of the other great perks is that the office doesn't charge you until the braces are actually put on. Patients have been known to get free visits for months or years for checkups before the wires and rubber bands are installed.

BEST PLACE TO BUILD YOUR ZINE COLLECTION

Rock Paper Scissors Collective

2279 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510 238-9171, RPSCollective.org

Among the punk-rock sect, zines are the currency of cool. They are DIY, artistic, analog, underground, and radical all at once. Hence, the bigger your zine collection, the more rad you are. It's unsurprising that Rock Paper Scissors Collective has the East Bay's best zine selection, as the little shop has been one of the coolest finds on the Uptown Koreatown block since before Art Murmur was even established. The volunteer-run art collective offers art classes and monthly gallery shows, in addition to running an eclectic boutique of local, handmade consignment goods — including an ever-replenishing shelf of those little hand-bound treasures. What really makes the RPSC zine experience the best, though, is the extensive zine library, which is the self-proclaimed biggest in the East Bay. Crawl inside the fort-like space and curl up between the shelves with a stack of zines. When you emerge, you'll be an cool your friends won't even recognize you.

BEST NEIGHBOURHOOD THRIFT SHOP

Temescal Community Foundation

4632 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510 883-8817 TemescalCommunityFoundation.com

From the outside, the inviting pink house on Telegraph Avenue looks like it hasn't changed in years. With the iconic Hooper's Chocolates sign standing tall outside, it'd be easy to mistakenly assume the old-fashioned chocolatier is actually still in business. While there are sadly no more sweets inside, the cottage is now home to a different kind of treat. The Temescal Community Foundation, a nonprofit group formed in January, now runs an antiques and thrift shop inside the historic house — and it's much more interesting than your typical consignment store. The organization is made up of a group of local residents, and profits from the store go toward supporting people who are disabled and disenfranchised. So a visit to the shop is a chance to not only donate to a great cause while exploring a landmark site — the vintage candy display counters are still intact — it's also an opportunity to score classic thrift store goodies and high-quality antiques.

BEST UPCYCLE RESOURCE

Urban Ore Ecopark

900 Murray St. Berkeley 510-841-7283, UrbanOre.com

Say you want a new coffee table, but you wouldn't be caught dead at IKEA. You would much prefer something more interesting, like a vintage trunk. Or maybe you need a summer project and want to tackle some legs onto an old door. You belong at Urban Ore Ecopark. What you go, chances are you won't find what you were looking for. But you'll leave with about ten things you never could have imagined you wanted. The massive warehouse and salvage yard has two sections, the indoor general store and the building materials exchange (BMX for short) outside. Inside, you'll find everything from old family photos to wooden theater seats to broken down jukeboxes. In the yard, you've got doors, lumber, bathtubs and more. Inside and out, it's easy to get lost in the sprawling, serpentine rows of recycled goods. You'll also spend a fraction of what you'd spend at the Alameda Antiques Fair, and you get to feel good about upcycling, too.

What Goes Around
Comes Around - and Around - and

We see some things two or three times. First we salvage a still useful thing from the Berkeley dump, or we accept it from someone who doesn't want it and brings it to us, or we pick it up from someone who calls. We sell it to someone else who can use it. That's reuse. It prevents waste. That's our work.

If the buyer also lets go of it, we're here to take it again if it's still useful.

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PEOPLE & PLACES

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2014

BEST DOG PARK

Ohlone East Dog Park

1701 Hearst Ave., Berkeley OhloneDogPark.org

Ohlone Dog Park is a large, off-leash dog run that is conveniently located within walking distance of both the downtown and North Berkeley BART stations. This gated dog park is a great option for dog owners who are not in the mood to drive up to the hills or to Point Isabel but still want a place where their dogs can run around and socialize with other canines. There are plenty of tennis balls and other toys lying around, not to mention free doggy bags to help keep the park clean. Instead of grassy lawns, the ground is covered in woodchips, which gives the spot a woodsy feel that goes well with the wooden benches and picnic tables sprinkled around. Folks at this community park are friendly and welcoming, and dogs both big and small roam freely. And the City of Berkeley is currently reviewing a renovation plan that will divide the park into two separate areas — one for big dogs and one for little dogs — which will make this popular spot even better.

BEST PLACE TO CRY IN PUBLIC

Henry J. Kaiser Memorial Park

1900 Rashida Muhammad St., Oakland, Remember-Them.org

Sobbing in public can be an incredibly cathartic experience. It can feel great to let the tears flow while riding a train, eating alone or walking down a crowded street. In some cases though, when you want to really let out a good cry in public, outdoor parks and plazas offer the perfect backdrop. In the center of the Henry J. Kaiser Memorial Park along 19th Street in Oakland, just west of Telegraph Avenue, the beautiful *Remember Them: Champions for Humanity* monument provides criers a safe space to wail freely. The 25-foot-tall 52 foot-wide bronze sculpture, created by Oakland artist Marsia Chando, was unveiled in 2011 and honors 25 civil rights activists, including Rosa Parks and Harvey Milk. Looking at these powerful works of art and reflecting on the sacrifices of humanitarian leaders is reason enough to shed a few tears. Practically speaking, they also provide some physical protection for criers, too. And the park is a space to feel anonymous without feeling completely alone. The hustle of Uptown Oakland surrounds you.

BEST LOCAL RADIO HOST

Roman Mars, 99% Invisible

99percentinvisible.org

Roman Mars hugely popular "tiny radio show about design" has earned the praise of public-radio heavyweights like Ira Glass and Jad Abumrad — and the endorsements are much deserved. A unique radio show centered on design and architecture, *99% Invisible* grew its devoted national audience through a successful crowdfunding initiative in 2012 that Kickstarter campaign attracted more than 5,000 supporters who raised more than $170,000 total. Those numbers more than doubled in a second Kickstarter campaign last year. The show got its start as a collaboration between San Francisco public-radio station KALW and the American Institute of Architects and is now distributed by PRX on public radio stations around the country. All the while, the radio show has raised all of its funding from underwriters and listeners. The project started small, with Mars doing production right out of his bedroom. But more recently he's deepened his roots in Oakland, moving the operation to the offices of Arcane Architecture on 13th Street in the heart of downtown Oakland. Set in addition to elevating independent public radio, the show deserves accolades for helping to put East Bay–based radio on the map, too.

READERS POLL WINNERS

BEST ACTIVIST
Davey D

BEST COWORKING SPACE
Impact Hub Oakland

BEST COOPERATIVE
The Cheese Board Collective

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Robert Reich

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BEST PLACE TO READ OUTSIDE

Berkeley Rose Garden

1200 Euclid Ave., Berkeley, 510 981-6660

It's a beautiful Sunday morning and you've got a coffee in one hand and a book in the other — where to go? The East Bay is full of parks, but when you're looking for a place to read, the Berkeley Rose Garden is the perfect spot. The garden itself has beautiful scenery (the roses, obviously) but you can also see the bay and the Golden Gate Bridge on a clear day so you've always got a view when you want a break from your reading material. The flowers are in peak form in mid-May but even when the rosebushes aren't flowering, the greenery is still lovely. The garden is not exactly hidden, but it's tucked away in the Berkeley hills, and thus there's limited street noise to distract you. There's also plenty of seating, with benches both in the sun and the shade, and the park maintains a generally quiet atmosphere, save for the occasional wayward child. There's really no better place to sit and savor your favorite tome (or your copy of the *Express*).

MOST FEARLESS MAYOR

Richmond's Gayle McLaughlin

First it was Big Oil Chevron, Richmond's largest employer (and biggest polluter) which Gayle McLaughlin has made a regular habit of holding accountable — most notably in 2010, when the city wrested a $114 million tax settlement out of the oil giant, and in 2013, when it sued for damages stemming from a massive refinery fire. Then it was Big Soda, the American Beverage Association, which McLaughlin and other members of the city's progressive wing went to bat against two years ago by attempting to levy a per-ounce tax on sugary beverages (the measure lost narrowly at the ballot box after the soda companies dumped millions into an astroturf campaign). And then last year McLaughlin went up against the biggest Big of 'em all — the American banking system, whose predatory loans and unethical (and in some cases, illegal) practices left thousands of Richmonders broke, debt-ridden, and scared. The city's plan to use eminent domain to seize underwater homes from the banks is currently stalled after a legal challenge and conservative opposition, but its supporters are being felt across the nation as other cities contemplate similar programs — and McLaughlin is being heralded as an example for progressive-minded city mayors everywhere.

BEST CUP DANCERS IN THE EAST BAY

Eddie Russell and Andrew Barbara

Last month, at Richmond's Juneteenth Festival, Richmond Police Sergeant Eddie Russell and Officer Andrew Barbara were caught doing the Wobble Dance on camera by Berkeley's Angel Estes and quickly became YouTube celebrities. As Estes described it, DJ O Asen was spinning the tunes, and the uniformed pair couldn't resist when V.I.C.'s "Wobble" came on. Barbara and Russell wiggled and shook — hulsters bouncing — as onlookers cheered them on. At one point, a woman in a leather shirt and a punk top joined in. "It was so awesome," Estes said. "I was cheering him 'this' were interacting with the community. With all the crime, you wouldn't think they'd have the time." Actually Richmond's homicide rate hit a 33-year low last year partially thanks to the East Bay's best police chief, Chris Magnus. All that should be plenty of reason for the Richmond cops to dance.

BEST BEER MECCA

Hayward

Oakland may get all the beery from these days, but don't tell that to the owners of the beer-geek mecca The Bistro which has been serving local favorites and rare Belgians to lively crowds for some twenty years. Or to the folks at Buffalo Bill's Brewery just down the

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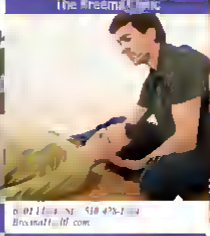
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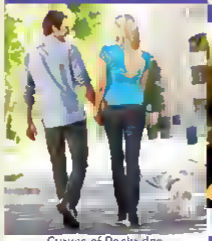
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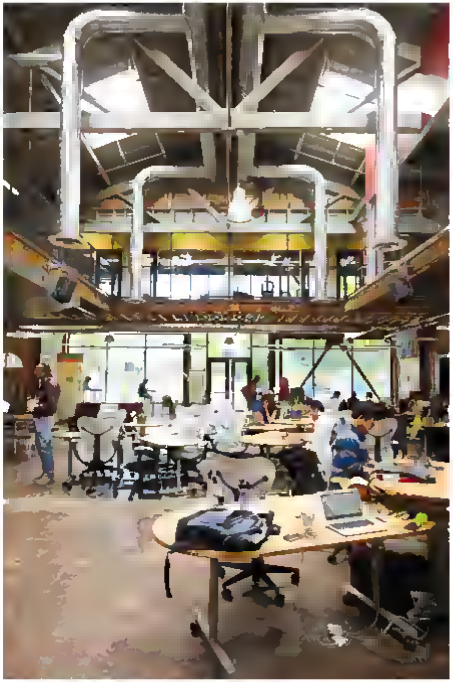


Maison d Etre



Paul Marcus Wines





Best building transformation: Impact Hub Oakland — Brad Werner

street. Or, for that matter, to the hundreds of hop-heads — some from out of state — who crowded into a parking lot *in the pouring rain* for February's Double and Triple IPA festival. Yup, while Oakland, Berkeley, and San Francisco were making trend-juice headlines and attracting buzz, this quietish East Bay burb has become one of the most reliably great suds cities around, with much of the beer enthusiasm and infrastructure of a bigger city — but shorter lines and a lower-key vibe. Cheers.

BEST BUILDING TRANSFORMATION

Impact Hub Oakland

2222 Broadway, Oakland, 510-858-2323, OaklandImpactHub.net

Broadway between 23rd and 24th Streets in Uptown Oakland used to be home to about a dozen car dealerships that made up the city's Auto Row. Those businesses have faded over the years, leaving behind individual vacancies and a largely inactive block in a prime location. But in February 2014, one shuttered car showroom on Broadway finally re-opened to the public — this time as a transformed coworking space and business incubator at the center of the revitalization of Uptown. Impact Hub Oakland, which has attracted a diverse mix of members and organizations over the last year, has taken advantage of the former car dealership's spacious layout and established an open 16,000-square-foot coworking site. Impact Hub is the anchor tenant of the Hive, an office, retail, and housing development project that will span the entire block by the end of 2015. With a wide range of spaces available for rent at affordable prices — in a building engineered to foster collaboration and creativity — Impact Hub is a distinctly Oakland space, and one unlike any other in the city.



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READERS SAY THE DARNDEST THINGS

BEST ACTIVIST
Oaklanders – all of us
we all do it together — ingrid martin

BEST COWORKING SPACE
Dust Spaces Berkeley
Gave a grown up office feel to my growing up business. — Susan D

BEST COOPERATIVE
Alchemy Café
It's new and groovy...and the workers own it, dammit! — Juanita Carroll Young

BEST COMPANY TO WORK FOR
City of Oakland
You just meet the coolest people in the elevator — Marisa Raya

BEST LOCAL INSTAGRAM ACCOUNT
Savor Oakland
food porn galore!!! and they introduce me to new places to grub! — Ira S. Chu

BEST LOCAL TWITTER ACCOUNT
@PointMeToTown
he hasn't tweeted in a while, but when he does... — mike

BEST NEIGHBORHOOD
Golden Gate
Scrappy, gritty, and requires a bit more moving around than our more-established neighborhoods but a great neighborhood full of eclectic and varied people and businesses. Great to visit or to inhabit. — ed bednarz

BEST PICK-UP SPOT
An Cupudet Cafe
My husband first met two of his wives here (including me). — Lmoreland
Random street corner/International Blvd
...wat what? — Travis Camacho
Lost & Found Rose Garden
I always end up meeting someone new every time I go there for more reason. And I consider myself pretty antisocial. — Shahbano Imran

BEST PLACE TO TAKE THE KIDS
Fairyland
Just tell them it's Disneyland — they won't know any better and you'll have saved lots of time and money — Jennifer Malone

BEST PLACE TO WALK YOUR DOG
Point Isabel
(I really have a WAY better place but it's a SECRET!!!) — Joel Casey

BEST GOOD-GOVERNMENT POLITICIAN

Dan Kalb

DanKalb.net

Politicians who claim to support open government and transparency are a thing a dozen. But Oakland Councilmember Dan Kalb, who was elected to represent North Oakland in 2012 stands apart. He not only advocates for good government policies, but he actually drafts proposals and works to turn them into law. This year, Kalb has spearheaded two important good government proposals for the November ballot: one that would strengthen Oakland's Public Ethics Commission, and another that would create an independent redistricting commission to draw the city council and school board boundary lines. Oakland's Public Ethics Commission has long been weak and ineffective, mostly because the city council has starved it of funds. So Kalb partnered with good-government groups including the League of Women Voters to craft a city charter amendment that would guarantee staffing and empower the ethics commission to effectively go after politicians and lobbyists who violate the law. Likewise the city has long needed to create an independent commission to draw district boundary lines and take that power out of the hands of the city council.

SMARTEST POLITICIAN

Tom Bates

TomBates.org

It seems like Berkeley Mayor Tom Bates has been battling anti-growth activists in the city for decades. And he almost always out-maneuvers them. Case in point: Earlier this year anti-growthers sponsored a November ballot measure that seeks to gut key aspects of the city's plan to spur development and increase density in downtown. The NIMBYs disguised their proposal by tying it to an extremely popular cause: saving the city's historic post office. In fact, the anti-growthers made sure to highlight the save-the-post-office provision of their measure when gathering signatures for it. So what did Bates do? He outmarketed them by introducing his own proposal to save the post office, thereby leaving the anti-growthers with a ballot measure whose only real purpose would be to kill downtown development. And since most Berkeley residents support the idea of bringing more people jobs, and businesses to downtown, the chance that the anti-growthers' ballot measure will pass this November is now considerably slimmer. Score another one for Bates.

MOST IMPRESSIVE RECORD FOR A NEW POLICE CHIEF

Sean Whent

When Oakland Mayor Jean Quan appointed Sean Whent to be the city's interim police chief last year some City Hall observers were skeptical. After all, Whent had no real command experience and was only 38 years old at the time. Plus, the unassuming Whent lacks the charisma of prior chiefs and the police union couldn't stand him because he used to run the department's internal affairs division. If that weren't enough, Oakland was in the grips of a robbery epidemic and an out-of-control violent crime problem.



Best men's barber: Mark Jason Sotola. Brad Wenner

when Wheat was appointed. But fast forward fourteen months, and suddenly far fewer people are talking about Oakland's rising crime numbers anymore. That's because they've dropped significantly under Wheat. As of July 1, violent crime is down in Oakland in every major category, including homicides, which have declined by 16 percent. And robberies? They've plummeted 39 percent. Plus, the department has made more progress in living up to court-ordered reforms under Wheat than at any time in years. No wonder Quan promoted him to be permanent chief in May.

MOST PROGRESSIVE OAKLAND MAYORAL CANDIDATE

Dan Siegel

SiegelforOakland.org

In a liberal town like Oakland, it's a safe bet that several mayoral candidates will vie for the title of Most Progressive. But they're going to have a tough time edging out Dan Siegel. The longtime labor and civil rights attorney was the first major candidate in the race to openly advocate for raising Oakland's minimum wage to $15 an hour. And while he now supports Lift Up Oakland's ballot measure to raise the minimum wage to $12.25 in March 2015, he adamantly opposes an alternative plan pushed by the Oakland Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce that would raise the wage floor more slowly and by a lesser amount, and would exempt many workers from receiving it. Siegel is also the only major candidate who is not advocating for spending tens of millions of more dollars in the next few years to beef up the city's police force to at least eight hundred cops. Siegel would rather spend that money on violence-prevention and other social programs and has a smart plan for reducing crime with a force of about seven hundred officers: more cops on the street, community policing, and an increased emphasis on crime investigations — the last of which has been a traditional weakness for OPD.

BEST PLACE TO WATCH THE SUNSET

Berkeley Marina

201 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-981-6740, ci.berkeley.ca.us/Berkeley_Marina/

When searching for a place to watch the sunset, you typically think of high-up spots in the hills like Indian Rock and the Lawrence Hall of Science. And while those places offer great views, watching the sunset over the water is even more majestic — and for that there's no better place in the East Bay than the Berkeley Marina. Head over to Cesar Chavez Park during the late afternoon with a friend and/or lover and laze around while watching the late fliers. Once the sun starts to set, take a romantic (or platonic) stroll on the flat walking path by the bay, where you can feel the breeze off the water and see the San Francisco skyline. If you can snag a bench, you can sit right by the water and watch the sailboats — and your worries — drift away.

BEST MEN'S BARBER

Mark-Jason Sotola

2211 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-859-8112, MJSalon.com

Mark-Jason Sotola's philosophy is that when you enter his barbershop, you are in for an experience. His one-chair shop, which is a tiny one-chair shop, less than 250 square-feet — is a "true gentleman's parlor," as he advertises. It's a place that offers clients "refuge and haven from the stresses and rigors of everyday living." It's an opportunity to go off the grid for an hour, he only sees eight or nine clients a day, allowing him to

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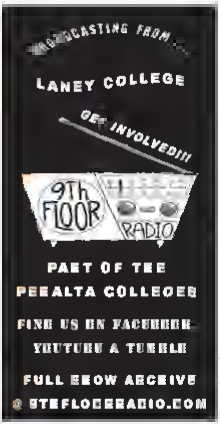
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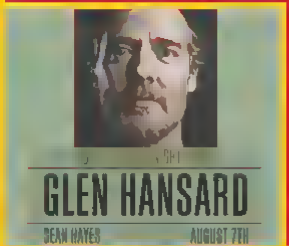
















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Randy Sever
— Carol Saveda

BEST PLACE TO BLISS OUT
Oakland Hills
— Ramona Houston

BEST PLUS-SIZED CLOTHING STORE
In Full Swing on College Ave., Oakland
— Susan McCutchan

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Toby Sak
Terrific for beginners and pros. You will learn to love the game and Toby has great knowledge and humor and skill at teaching. — Paula Forselles

BEST MAYOR
Mayor Jean Quan
— Angie Tam

BEST LATE NIGHT PEOPLE WATCHING
Tricks Tonite Park in Oakland
— Melanie

BEST HACKERSPACE
Mollusktop Hacker Atom
— Levi Jacobs

BEST PLACE TO END UP AT 1 AM
Ruby Brew
— Allison Cole

BEST PRESIDENT
Obama
— anna

BEST YOUNG MUSIC PRODUCER
Hugo
— Hugo Cesar

BEST PLACE TO HAVE SEX IN PUBLIC
Snow park
— Brett

BEST PLACE THAT BRINGS PEOPLE TOGETHER
Lake Merritt
— Tim Teschgraeber

BEST SMARTHIPPENS
Lefthiswing
— Lucas Andrew

give them each the tone they deserve. "The haircut is a byproduct of the experience," he said. There is a kind of nostalgia to his establishment, which resembles the traditional barbershops of the 1930s and '40s. Solofa specializes in classic and vintage cuts with clean lines, as well as straight razor shaves. And considering the personalized attention, his rates are pretty affordable — just $40-$50 for a haircut. His passion and energy may be a reflection of the fact that he only began pursuing this dream about six years ago, when he left a bank job after nearly two decades in the mortgage industry. "By all accounts it was a smart move. In addition to fielding more bookings that he can handle, Solofa has developed a popular social media presence, including an Instagram account (@majesticmensgrooming) with more than 5,000 followers.

SMARTEST ENVIRONMENTALIST

Greg Karras

Big Oil and Gas spend massive amounts of money each year on lobbying and public relations campaigns, downplaying the dangers of fracking, extracting dirty tar sands oil, and moving heavy crude by rail. Chevron has even created its own "news" website in Richmond to disseminate corporate-friendly information. As a result, it can be very difficult at times for residents to separate fact from fiction. That's where Greg Karras comes in. As chief scientist for Communities for a Better Environment, Karras routinely uncovers evidence of corporate lies, especially when it comes to the East Bay's biggest polluters: oil refineries. For example, earlier this year Karras found compelling evidence that the Phillips 66 refinery in Rodeo plans to switch to refining very heavy crude, including dirty tar sands oil — despite the company's assurances that it would not. Karras also has been keeping close tabs on Chevron's proposed Richmond refinery "modernization" project, and has discovered that the project would fail to replace some old, worn-out equipment that is at high risk of corrosion from the higher-sulfur raw materials that the oil giant plans to use. It was sulfur-corroded pipes that caused the giant explosion at the Richmond refinery in 2012, sending 15,000 East Bay residents to the hospital.

BEST TENANT ADVOCATE

James Vann

As apartment prices continue to skyrocket in Oakland, many longtime residents have been pushed out of their homes. Recent city reports have shown that many low-income residents are now spending more than half of their income on rent. That's why James Vann of the Oakland Tenants Union has been working overtime to limit rent increases in a city in which landlord groups have traditionally wielded considerable power. Earlier this year Vann was instrumental in convincing the city council to adopt new tenant-protection rules. Under the regulations, property owners can pass on to tenants no more than 70 percent of the cost of capital improvements (before, they could legally force tenants to pay all the costs), and can't raise rents more than 10 percent a year, with a cap of 30 percent in five years. Vann is now working to limit the landlords' ability to pass on the costs of seismic upgrades to buildings in the same way.



Best neighborhood blogger: E'ville Eye's Rob Arias. Brad Wenner

BEST NEIGHBORHOOD BLOGGER

E'ville Eye's Rob Arias

EvilleEye.com

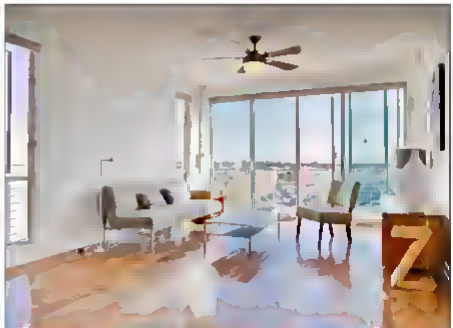
In August of 2010, Emeryville resident Rob Arias was robbed at gunpoint while walking his dog a few blocks away from his Park Avenue home. He wanted to alert as many residents as possible, but realized there was no good platform through which to reach his neighbors. That frustrating situation inspired him to create the E'ville Eye, an online forum dedicated to Emeryville, the often-overlooked East Bay city. Since then, he has recruited a number of semi-regular contributors and guest bloggers, and built a loyal audience for his website and associated Facebook page. The E'ville Eye has everything a local blog should — crime updates and statistics, the skinny on restaurant and business openings and closures, interviews with city councilmembers and other government officials, and more. Arias aggregates mainstream news reports relevant to Emeryville and fills in the gaps by covering the local news stories that the rest of the East Bay media outlets — which tend to remain focused on Oakland and Berkeley — often ignore. And every once in a while, Arias snags an exclusive

MOST EFFECTIVE ACTIVIST COALITION

Lift Up Oakland

LiftUpOakland.org

Earlier this year a coalition of labor and activist groups came together to form Lift Up Oakland with the goal of qualifying a measure for the November ballot that would raise the minimum wage in Oakland to $12.25 an hour starting in March 2015. And the effort was an overwhelming success. The coalition quickly gathered more than 33,000 petition signatures — far more than it needed to qualify for the ballot. If voters pass the measure, Oakland will have the highest minimum wage in the East Bay, and low-income workers will see a collective wage increase of about $4 million over the next five years. The measure is also tied to inflation, meaning that the minimum wage would increase each year to keep up with the cost of living. The new minimum wage also would be approximately equal to about $25,000 a year for those working 40 hours a week — an amount that experts say is a living wage for a single person working full time in Oakland. ■





RESTAURANTS & BARS



BEST NEW RESTAURANT

Homestead

4029 Piedmont Ave., Oakland, 510-420-6962, HomesteadOakland.com

The East Bay's best new restaurant doesn't name-drop luxury ingredients or push the boundaries of modern gastronomy. No, what Homestead offers are quieter pleasures: sweet cherry tomatoes spiked with sherry vinegar; duck confit slow-cooked until the fat is seductively juggly; thick slices of perfectly grilled rib eye kissed with a deep smokiness from the wood-fire hearth, where almost all of the food is cooked. True to the pioneer spirit evoked by the restaurant's name, almost every single item on the menu — including the bread, ricotta, cured meats, and sea salt–flecked soft butter — is made from scratch in-house. Look out, Cheez Fanatics! Truly this is Northern Californian cuisine at its finest. Don't sleep on the restaurant's morning coffee-and-doughnuts program, which is like breakfast and a show for food lovers, a chance to munch on a house-made French crueller or savory bacon strata while you watch the chefs prep for dinner service.

BEST TIBETAN-NEPALESE-BHUTANESE RESTAURANT

Tashi Delek

11224 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito, 510-232 9316 TashiDelekRestaurant.com

The cuisine of Central Asia doesn't get a ton of attention in the Bay Area, but that's mostly due to lack of familiarity. We can't think of a better place for the East Bay's food-obsessed to get familiar with the momos, datsis, and thukpa of the world than this quiet El Cerrito restaurant. Once given a proper introduction, who wouldn't fall in love with Tashi Delek's soul-warming thukpa (soupy Tibetan hand-torn noodles); piping-hot fried wontons; and supersize momos (steamed dumplings native to both Nepal and Tibet)? And how will you ever know if you're susceptible to the pungent charms of the Bhutanese specialty known as *shamu datsi* — mushrooms cooked in blue-cheese-and-hot chili-pepper sauce — if you never give it a try?

BEST RESTAURANT FOR CARNIVORES WITH GOURMET TASTES

Box and Bells

5912 College Ave., Oakland, 510-923-2000, BoxAndBells.com

The concept behind James Syhabout's newest hotspot, Box and Bells, is food that chefs like to eat during their daily staff meals — at the end of their shift, or on their rare nights off. And based on the restaurant's menu, it seems that what chefs like to eat is rich, indulgent food — food in which meat takes center stage, or, even when it plays a supporting role, steals up and hogs the show. At Box and Bells, the steaks are phenomenal — tender beyond belief — and the Japanese-inspired fried chicken, paired with raw oyster mayonnaise, is an good a fried chicken dish as you'll ever eat. During the winter months, even the salads of Bee come studded with humongous chunks of bacon, and cooked vegetable side dishes, such as roasted celery root, come in a pool of rich, intensely flavorful beef and chicken drippings. We're not complaining, though. If this is how chefs eat, it's easy to see why someone would want to be one.

BEST EAST PHO

KangNam Pho House

441 P Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-835-0990

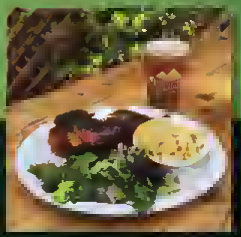
There are so many good options for lunch and dinner in Temescal these days that it can sometimes be hard to pick a spot. But if you're looking for fast, cheap, delicious, and incredibly filling food, you can't go wrong with KangNam Pho House, which offers up a wide variety of giant pho dishes for only $7.75 for the "regular" size. A "large" pho is

Dig in to the new Pyramid Alehouse menu featuring old favorites with a fresh and local flair!

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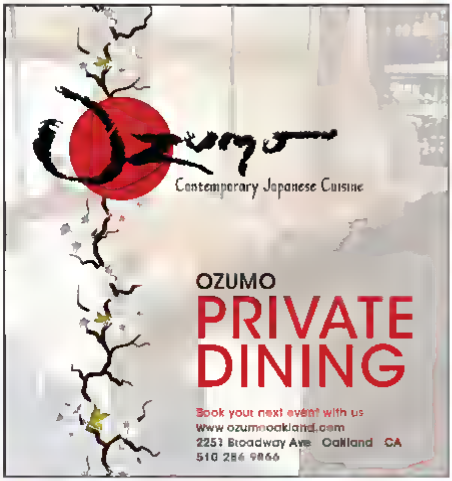






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BEST AMBIENCE AT A RESTAURANT
Mua Oakland

BEST BAR
Bar Three Fifty-Five

BEST BARBECUE
B-Side BBQ

BEST BARTENDER
Rafael Jimenez Rivera

BEST BEER BAR
The Trappist

BEST BREAKFAST/BRUNCH
Mama's Royal Café

BEST CAFE
Awaken Café

BEST CHEF
James Syhabout

BEST CHINESE RESTAURANT
Shen Dong Restaurant

BEST COCKTAILS
Plum Bar

BEST COFFEE
Blue Bottle Coffee Co.

BEST DELIVERY SERVICE
SpoonRocket

BEST DESSERT PLACE
Fentons Creamery

BEST FOOD AT A BAR
Plum Bar

BEST ICE CREAM
Ici Ice Cream

BEST INDIAN/PAKISTANI RESTAURANT
Ajanta

BEST ITALIAN RESTAURANT
La Cocina Restaurant

BEST JAPANESE/SUSHI RESTAURANT
Kiraku Japanese Restaurant

BEST KID-FRIENDLY RESTAURANT
Picante

BEST KOREAN RESTAURANT
Bowl & Korean Rice Bar

BEST LATE-NIGHT FOOD
Rudy's Can't Fail Cafe

BEST LOCALLY SOURCED/ ORGANIC MENU
Gather

BEST MEXICAN RESTAURANT
Nido Kitchen & Bar

BEST MIDDLE EASTERN RESTAURANT
Oasis Grill

BEST MOBILE FOOD VENDOR
fivebies burger

BEST NEW BAR
Last & Found

BEST NEW RESTAURANT
Iyasaro

BEST OUTDOOR SEATING
Jupiter

BEST PIZZA
Zachary's Chicago Pizza

BEST RESTAURANT FOR A DATE
Flora

BEST SANDWICHES
Ike's Place

BEST SEAFOOD
Marica Seafood Restaurant

BEST SERVICE AT A RESTAURANT
Chez Panisse

BEST SOUTHEAST ASIAN RESTAURANT
Burma Superstar

BEST SOUTHERN/SOUL FOOD
Brown Sugar Kitchen

BEST VEGETARIAN/VEGAN RESTAURANT
Souley Vegan

$8.75, but is so big it's nearly impossible for a single person to finish. (If you want all of the meats — rare steak, well done brisket flank, tendon, tripe and beef — the regular is $8.45, and the large is $9.45.) The servers aren't always super friendly or chatty, but you'll shortly forgive any apparent rudeness once you realize how damn quickly they can get you your hot pho bowl. The Viets assess restaurant in on way sacrifices quality for speed. While it takes only a few minutes to get your order you'll want to take your time eating the steaming pho, which will leave you full and satisfied — if you manage to consume it all.

BEST TOAST

Avocado Toast
st Awaken Café

1429 Broadway Oakland, 510-863-1440, AwakenCafe.com

Let's get that out of the way as quickly and as elegantly as possible: Yes, this is an endorsement of $6.50 toast. We're telling you to go out and spend nearly two Big Macs' worth of your hard-earned cash on toasted bread. Not just telling you, even, *imploring* you, because that isn't just toast, it's a full meal — thick, perfectly-crunchy-but-still-soft Texas toast; a gorgeous, organic avocado, cut into amusable little slices; a sprinkling of salt and pepper; and a little silver cup full of kalamata olives, to be thrown on top for extra salt or eaten on the side. All enjoyed in downtown's loveliest, most light filled brile cafe. And it's much, much better than a Big Mac.

BEST NEW COFFEESHOP

Grand Fare

3265 Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-291-4883, Grand-Fare.com

When Doug Washington took over the space formerly known as the Indonesian art gallery-slash-café Monkey Forest Road, he employed

THE CHURCHWARD PUB

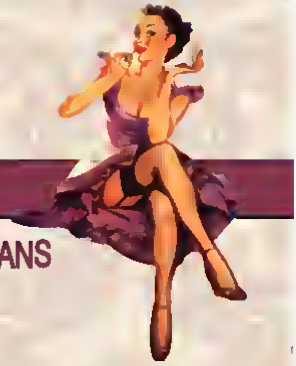


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Best Cajun food in the back of a punk club. Eli's Mile High Club Brad Wenner



a communal cuisine that turned out to be quite reliable. Its own personal taste. Washington pinned his wife Freya Prowe's art to the walls, stocked the bar with beans from his favorite coffee company, Linea, gathered some up-market retro sofas and sheepskin throws, and grilled it all together with one bright orange shag rug. Grand Fare was designed to evoke an older school of coffee house culture, forsaking Wi Fi and quick-fire service for a relaxed, living room feel that encourages more talking than texting. Grand Fare is an evolving concept, and will eventually add a marketplace — lining the periphery with artisan foodstuffs — as well as seats and heating for the outdoor patio. It's a custom-fit, cozy den.

BEST PLACE TO FIRE A REVOLUTION BREWING

Arbor Café

4210 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-923-6117

Three years ago Arbor Café opened up in the spot that used to house Soike Dey's Cafe, a kid friendly sanctuary for mothers in need of caffeine and Wi Fi. Since then, Arbor has been hosting a decidedly different atmosphere. In lieu of a changing table and squeezable, squeakable toys, the space houses a growing cross-section of the self-employed freelancing crowd — equally likely to be chipping away on laptops as scratching personal manifestos into Moleskines. In lieu of retail shelves, there's upright indoor bike parking. Instead of matching chairs, there are flea market finds. This is not where coders come to code, but where residents come to think and dream, where part-time poets work, where doulas come to study where the timeless battle between capitalists and anarchists reaches a fever pitch on the back of the bathroom door. The food is simple, the coffee dark and strong and the libations are ripe for arousing the heart of Oakland's fringe.

BEST CAJUN FOOD IN THE BACK OF A PUNK CLUB

Couyon Cajun and Po'Boys at Eli's Mile High Club

3629 Martin Luther King Blvd., Oakland, 510-808 7101. ElisMileHigh.com/CouyonCajun

To be fair, there's a distinct possibility that this is the East Bay's *only* Cajun food in the back of a Punk Club. But make no mistake, David Hedak and Louise Martin's mini restaurant would be worth a trip if it were in the back of a mortuary or a club playing solely Justin Bieber or a storefront full of wasps — it really is that good. Cut past the club's lovably grimey front bar and through the unhandsome masses, hang a right into the tiny, surprisingly orderly restaurant space, and order a beer an authentic, Louisiana-style catfish po' boy and a plate of crawfies (crispy, sweet, salty fried pig skin served with three different sauces). Bring an appetite — and possibly earplugs.

BEST TACO WITH A STORY

Taqueria La Familia

2571 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-548-3420

Two decades ago, Kau Lewis fell in love with Maria Delgadillo while he was on shore leave in San Diego. He spent weeks trying to woo her up


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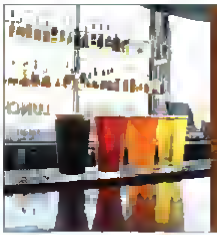

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READERS SAY THE DARNDEST THINGS

BEST AMBIENCE AT A RESTAURANT

Ala Mar
Low light and a nautical feel...like I'm at sea. — Elaine Cormier

Chez Panisse
ahhhh! — brett Radgley

DIDO Kitchen & Bar
you close and open your eyes and forget you're on a corner of a freeway and a gas station. — Cory McCollew

Fondue Fondue Boiling Hot
Call me crazy but I really like the fake silhouettes in the fake windows here. — Chris Erickson

Triniteus
Where else can you listen to old hardcore and Sabbath while you eat food with a bunch of older hardcore kids. — ///C

BEST BAR

Beach and Bar
They held it down for their Queer family — Darlene Cooper

Perla
Wonderful outdoor seating area, even if they do allow kids. — Claudia Alleyne

BEST BARBECUE

You should probably just give Ed,d a lifetime achievement award and name this category "Best BBQ besides Everett & Jones" — Michael altfest

BEST BARTENDER

Billy Agan
Fucking tight — William

Brant Pennington
He's just a great guy...And he'll let you know if you're an ass —jwhat604

Dalamelle at Hotch
She Cray — Joshua

Kiva
Best fucking Bartender Ever! His Absinthe Martini's get you fucnunched up — ///C

Jared Berry
Shameless — Jared Berry

BEST SEED BAR

Heart and Dagger
My dog thanks us too! — Sara Steffens

Best Breakfast/Brunch
EM Seymon
The Denion Lover's the best chicken and waffles I've ever had hands down! Must have with the cream gravy and the maple syrup. I'm getting hungry just thinking about it. Plus all the velvet paintings add something special to the space. — Cortha

to San Francisco. Eventually, it vanished, and the couple moved in together. In 1997 they traded their house for an old RV and parked up a lane to an old taqueria in South Berkeley. Lewis worked night shifts at Home Depot and days at the restaurant. Delgadillo, the daughter of a fisherman in Ensenada, Baja California, cooked fried fried home. In the winters, they took the lights inside to sleep next to the heaters in the restaurant's kitchen. Seventeen years later, La Familia is embedded in the culinary heart of Berkeley, dishing out the best fish tacos in town — Alaskan pollock fingers in a light beer batter and mixed with thin cabbage and a sour cream hay sauce — at prices as low as they've always been.

BEST RESTAURANT VENUE

Duende

464 19th St., Oakland, 510-893-9174, DuendeOakland.com

Duende is as much about art as it is about food. Exposed walls wear a theatre mask of Raymond Saunders' pieces, the mezzanine is host to a rotation of local and touring bands, and the restaurant has a taste for the food of rural, industrial art you might find if you were excavating the desert ruins of an old, rich city. Even Chef Paul Canales has been known to cook to live jazz, each maker playing off the other in a mutually creative exhibition. Improvisation is Duende's driving pistol. Even the name points to the mischievous demon — disembodied soul genius and driving force of creation — that supposedly shows up when an artist is committed enough to die for his art. Duende peppers its calendar with shows by jazz acts, flamenco troupes, and various Bay Area mainstays, offering a rare partnership of fine sherry and badass bands.

BEST FOOD IN A PARKING LOT

A Taste of Africa

Ashby Flea Market, 1837 Ashby Ave., Berkeley 510-644-0744 BerkeleyFleaMarket.com

Every weekend morning, Malang Pondar sets up a bamboo tent in the Northwest corner of the Ashby BART station parking lot. To his right, blankets and broken toasters fill a parking space. Across the way, a rack is hung with cheap Indian silk and bins of incense. Pondar runs A Taste of Africa, a roaming Cameroonian catering outfit that, after shuttering a short-lived brick and mortar location a couple years ago pops up at the Ashby Flea Market on Saturdays and Sundays. Pondar is out to cure, diagnosing customers' moods on the spot and slinging together plates of peanut stew and ndole (ginger coconut yams), nsuke (flavored black-eyed peas), jollof rice, and fried fish or braised chicken, flanked by plantain fritters and stewed, peppery spinach. Pondar's food is soul-filling stuff, sharply spiced, roundly sweet, and endlessly warming. The whole experience is punctuated by the only boom box that can hold up to the roar of a sidewalk drum circle twenty strong.

BEST LAPTOP CAFE

Good Bellies

4659 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-594-1830 GoodBelliesCafe.com

There are a few essential factors that make a café a great spot to bring your laptop and



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Best gin cocktail: Demeter's Daughter at Pathos — Brad Wenner

BEST GIN COCKTAIL

Demeter's Daughter at Pathos

2430 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-981-8338, PathosRestaurant.com

In the few months it's been open, Pathos has drawn (deserved) praise for its elegant design, excellent service, and crazy-delicious grilled octopus small plate. But among the upscale restaurant's many many charms is also a cocktail program on par with some of the East Bay's best bars, rife as it is with fussy name-brand liquors and, in one case, atomized urine. The bar's crown jewel, however, is a drink that's simple and perfect and perfect in its simplicity: made from Botanivore gin — a particularly herby variety from Alameda's St. George Spirits — rosemary St. Germain, lavender bitters, and a lemon peel. This is a gin drinker's gin drink. Potent and bright and bracingly herbaceous, with all the ingredients intended to complement,

get some work done: comfortable seating and table space, a solid Wi Fi connection, and strong coffee. Good Bellies has it all — and then some. The locally owned Temescal coffee house has smaller tables (to accommodate solo workers) and larger ones (perfect for group studying or meetings). The Wi-Fi also reaches the cafe's outdoor tables, which can make laptop work on a sunny afternoon all the more pleasant. Productive work also requires more than just good coffee, and there's no shortage of tasty and healthful food options at the family-run establishment. The best items on the menu are the delicious — and filling — vegan dishes, including a vegan pulled pork sandwich, a veggie club with nonexistent bacon, and a chickpea salad sandwich. The business also serves wine and beer, which can be a nice reward after hours of work. And when you patronize this business, you're supporting the opposite of Starbucks. The owner, Allegra Hamby-Maddux, lives just a few blocks away and has put on regular music and arts events at Good Bellies since it opened four and a half years ago.

Try Our New Summer Drinks



Iced Coffee



Strawberry Chata™ Shake



Coffee FrappaChata™



Root Beer Float



RECIPES

Root Beer Float
1 part RumChata
3 parts root beer
Combine ice cubes and RumChata in glass
Carefully fill glass with root beer. Please pour root beer over the float. Using RumChata to cooled root beer floats is not recommended as they seem to separate faster than other brands.

RumChata Colada
Add 1 ounce of RumChata to your favorite piña colada recipe for the smoothest colada you have ever tasted

RumChata by Elvis
4 parts RumChata
1 and 1/2 parts spiced rum
1/2 part banana liqueur
1 tsp peanut butter
1/2 banana
1 scoop vanilla ice cream
OR 1/3 cup ice
Combine ingredients in blender; blend until completely blended. Pour into tall glass.

RumChata Iced Coffee
part RumChata
2 to 3 parts room temperature coffee (adjust coffee level to your taste)
Add RumChata and coffee to glass. Stir and serve.

Strawberry Chata Shake
1 part ice cream
part frozen strawberries
part RumChata
1/2 part rum
1 part ice
Blend until smooth and pour into tall glass

Coffee FrappaChata
1 part vanilla ice cream
coffee (adjust to taste)
2 parts coffee ice cream (vanilla or chocolate)
1 part RumChata
1/2 part rum
1 part ice
Blend until smooth and pour into tall glass. Drizzle chocolate syrup if desired.

Strawberry FrappaChata
1 part frozen strawberries
1 part pina colada mix
1 part RumChata
1/2 part rum
1 part ice
Blend until smooth and pour into tall glass

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READERS SAY THE DARNDEST THINGS

BEST CHEF
Jarrow Sylabout
sf'ke did anything vegan. — Gina Marie

Matt Gandy
Jewish guy making Mexican food real well — Veronique

BEST COFFEE
Peet's
sad but true — brett Badgley

BEST DESSERT PLACE
Coracon Confections
These raw vegan chocolates are insanely amazing. — Nicole

BEST JAPANESE/SUSHI RESTAURANT
Shimizu
Its Soo cheap you can actually eat there and still have money for oakland rent... BARELY — Travis Camacho

BEST LATE-NIGHT FOOD
NO WINNER, NOT ENOUGH!!!
let's not pick a winner an instead invite business owners to open up their spots until midnight or 1! we need more options!!!! we dont even have a 24 hour diner!! — Courtney Trouble

Pizza Man
Delivery during my drunkest hours? I think so. — Nichole

BEST MOBILE FOOD VENDOR
WhipOut! Food Truck. We have been driving passed the truck and turned around to follow it. Yes, the fried chicken sliders are that good. — Ali Neumeshvander

BEST PIZZA
New York Pizza
Don't worry..it's not in New York. — kevin holmes

BEST RESTAURANT FOR A DATE
BUILD
PIZZA WHO DOSENT LOVE PIZZA — Matthew Slank

BEST SANDWICHES
Gregoire a Piedmont
The absolute best sandwiches. This is my all time fav place to get lunch. The potato puffs are amazing. They have to win this category it would be ridiculous if they didn't. — Shahbanu Imran

rather than mask, the Botanivore. It a sturdy enough to stand up to something like say grilled octopus, but for best results, drink it with few distractions.

BEST VEGGIE BURRITO

Holy Molé at Baje Taqueria

4078 Piedmont Ave, Oakland, 818 547 2252, BajaOnPiedmont.com

Piedmont Avenue a Baja Taqueria is best known for its baja-style fish tacos — which were reportedly the East Bay's first, and which are, indeed, excellent — and for its selection of inventive, usually fish centric wraps and rottes. But lurking on the menu among the prawn tacos and lobster (!) burritos is one of the best and most interesting vegetarian burritos around, composed of a toothsome whole-wheat tortilla, hearty, perfectly cooked black beans and rice, spicy, rich molé sauce, a little sour cream to cut the spice, and — here a the most important part — a serving of sweet, starchy, sublimely caramelized plantains right inside with everything else. This is the kind of veggie burrito that'll make you forget all about Chipotle — even, possibly, those fish tacos.

BEST MILKSHAKE

Pistachio Milkshake at Park Way Drive-In (formerly Kwik Way)

800 Lake Park Ave, Oakland, 510-832-1300, ParkWayDriveInOakland.com

For something that's pretty much entirely composed of sugar and fat, the milkshake is alarmingly easy to screw up. All too many of em are gratuitously thick, ersentially just melty ice cream, while others might as well be chocolate milk, they're so anemically textured. And then there's the issue of flavorings — most places s ffer chocolate and vanilla, strawberry if you're lucky, and little else. Except, that is, for Park Way, whose pistachio shake is damn near perfect. Appreciably thick but not straw-foilingly solid, ideally (but not excessively) sweet, gorgeously bright green but not in an artificial way and boasting a flavor so deeply genuinely nutty there's no way it could've come from a powder. Best of all, though, is the chunks of pistachio blended right into the shake for crunch and flavor. Just when you thought fat and sugar couldn't get any better ...

BEST PLACE TO EAT ALONE

A16 Rockridge

5356 College Ave., Oakland, 510-788-8002, A16Rockridge.com

Human company is overrated. Or rather, sometimes there's nothing more decadent, more relaxing, more grown-up-feeling, more purely lovely than getting a little dressed up and taking yourself out to a delicious meal at a nice restaurant, completely and utterly solo — no drawn-out negotiations over destination or wine choice to how much to tip, no need to make conversation or give someone else a bite of your damn food. And in the East Bay, there's perhaps no better place to do it than A16: a beautiful marble bar. The service is attentive but never judgmental (no comments "Just

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Best cheap date: Gogi Time. *Brad Wenner*

one?" questions here, thank you very much); the people-watching is excellent; and, perhaps most crucially, solo diners can generally slip in reservation-free and sit at the bar even on otherwise busy nights. You may even wind up in conversation with a fellow diner — only if you're looking for company, that is.

BEST SWEET POTATO FRIES

LIBA Falafel

415-906-5422, LIBAFalafel.com

Food trucks tend to have an "anything goes" attitude when it comes to French fries, adorning the classic side dish with everything from chili to curry. This is an approach LIBA's food truck has used to great effect. The fries — warm, flavorful, crispy on the outside, and melty on the inside — are tossed with garlic, cilantro and lime, and are the perfect foundation for the many topping options at LIBA's condiment bar, which features all manner of seasonal salads, pickles, and slaws. Moroccan carrot? Red cabbage with toasted black sesame seed? Snap pea peanut salad with miso-ginger vinaigrette? Pile it on. A little of almost everything is the path to salvation. Don't forget the fried pickled onion or the feta. The fries are even better with a couple of crunchy falafel balls mashed in for good measure. LIBA's is opening a brick-and-mortar stage this summer (3580 17th St., Oakland), but until that happens, get your spud fix around the bay at Off the Grid and at farmers markets.

BEST BREAKFAST TORTA

Adesso

4395 Piedmont Ave., Oakland, 510-601-9305
DopoAdesso.com

Adesso's breakfast torta changes daily, but the premise stays the same: The salumeria soaks its house-made semolina bread in the whey from the kitchen's own ricotta. A little egg is added, plus cheese, and finally perishable farmers' market vegetables. The bread's insides soften to a scrambled egg–like texture, and its corners turn crispy and brown. In the summer, Adesso often adds juicy bits of sweet tomato and melty ricotta. The torta is served warm, with olive oil drizzled over. Fluffier than a frittata, and with more texture than a quiche, the torta pairs perfectly in the morning with one of Adesso's better-than-average cappuccinos.

BEST FISH SANDWICH

Catered To You

1711 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-208-2522, CateredToYou.net

This hole-in-the-wall storefront is so tiny that you could walk right by without even realizing it. But you don't want to miss Catered To You — especially the signature fried fish sandwich, which is by far the most popular item on the menu at this Telegraph Avenue Cajun American food joint. $9 gets you a massive, freshly cooked fish sandwich, plus a generous serving of fries or a side salad. The latter is a good option if you're not a big eater, because the sandwich alone will knock you out. But you won't regret it. Owner and chef Tessa Johnson sandwiches three pieces of fried swai fish (similar to catfish) lettuce, tomato and red onions between two buns and covers the fried goodness in mayonnaise and a flavorful sauce she makes in-house (a combo of hot sauce, mustard, and ketchup). The sandwich is so filling that two semi-hungry people can easily share it and the side of fries and walk away with full stomachs. Johnson also blends her own seasoning for the above-average fries, which patrons can order separately — just $3 for a large basket. Catered To You, which has occupied the 300-square-foot space since 2003, is a great lunch spot and perfect late-night munchies stop on the weekend.

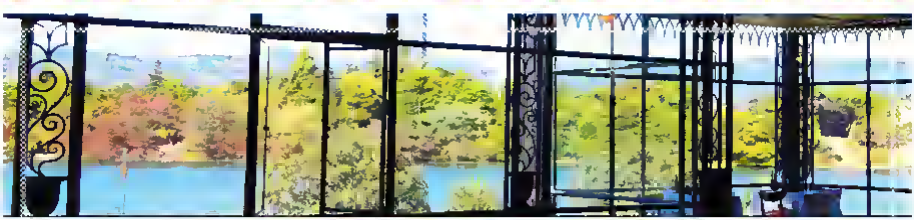
BEST CHEAP DATE

Gogi Time

2600 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-834-6767
GogiTime.com

Keep your schmancy dinners and your chichi dimmed lighting. As anyone who witnessed the out-the-door lines at the newish all-you-can-eat Korean BBQ joint Gogi Time this past Valentine's Day can attest, the truest romance in the East Bay isn't found over a $40 steak but over a get-hazing, shirt-stanning, resolve-challenging array of piping-hot kimchi pancakes, tender beef bulgogi, and marinated pork belly, cooked on a tabletop stove and replenished endlessly





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The Lagkmaster
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BEST PUNK ROCK BAR
Eli's Mile High Club (HIGH DIGH!)
Should also be counted as best dive bar with killer cajun food in the east bay — steve west

ONLY RESTAURANT TO NAIL MEXICAN AND VIETNAMESE FIHN
Saigon Deli
— Time S

CUTEST WAIT STAFF
Poppies/Sweet Farm
— David Kenneth McEvoy Sparkes Finke

for a mere $25 per person. Sure, the ambience at this cavernous Koreatown restaurant — fluorescent lighting, lots of families — isn't necessarily amorous, and sure, not everyone wants to be wooed over a meat plate bursting a small army but there's something oddly charming about watching the right person cram as much discount beef down his or her gullet as humanly possible

BEST BRUNCH

Camino

3917 Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-547-5835

For whatever reason, the word isn't out about Camino's brunch. There's never a wait, the enormous communal tables are large enough to accommodate bigger parties, and the menu is as diverse as one could hope for. There are small plates, large plates, savory and sweet breakfast options, a cheese plate, fresh breads, salads, and more lunch-like fare, in addition to brunch staples like wood-oven baked eggs, pork and herb sausages, and French toast. If that weren't enough to entice you, their house-made doughnuts — which are almost always on the menu — are delicious. On the liquid side of things, Camino serves inventive cocktails (try their take on a *michelada*), fresh squeezed juices, and coffee from Four Barrel. Needless to say, there's a reason Mark Bittman wrote a feature-length article about the restaurant in *The New York Times Magazine* earlier this year. After five years, Russell Moore is dishing out better-tasting food than ever.

BEST HAPPY HOUR FOR THE HUNGRY

Eureka! Burger

2550 Center St., Berkeley, 510-809-8282, EurekaRestaurantGroup.com

The best happy hours are ones in which drinks aren't the only discounted items on the menu. For this reason, the deals at Eureka! Burger, the new downtown Berkeley American craft beer restaurant, are among the best. As part of its "Happy" Hour special, Eureka offers $2 off of a number of craft beers, all glasses of wine, and liquors such as Buffalo Trace bourbon and Fugu Vodka by Ballast Point. The restaurant also offers $3–$4 discounts on a number of its signature appetizers, including truffle fries, lollipop corn dogs, sliders, nachos, and white fish or chicken tacos. If you share a few of those items with a group, they can make for a tasty and inexpensive meal. Happy Hour deals are available every day from 2–6 p.m. and 9 p.m. to close. On Tuesdays, the restaurant's happy hour deal also includes half-off bottles of wine — and if you choose one of the cheaper options and share with a friend on date, it's a bargain.

BEST PLACE FOR A BLIND DATE

Café Leila

1724 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-525-7544, CafeLeila.com

There's a lot that can go wrong on a blind date, but the right location can go a long way in reducing the risk of disaster. Cafe Leila has all the right ingredients. First off, the restaurant maintains an overall relaxed vibe and affordable menu, which helps the date remain relatively low-key and low-pressure. At the same time, the Mediterranean and Italian dishes and overall decor are classy enough

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that it's not an *affirmatively* casual choice. The food is tasty and the menu is a safe bet for a mystery guest: even the pickiest eaters can find a simple pasta or salad dish that they'll enjoy. Cafe Leila also has a beautiful and expansive outdoor patio area that gives island daters the space to have awkward conversation without feeling like patrons at adjacent tables are eavesdropping. On weekend nights, the café hosts free live jazz shows, which can ease the discomfort of unnatural pauses in conversation, or gives daters an excuse to stop talking altogether as needed. Most importantly, the restaurant is BYOB which means you can bring a full bottle — or two! — of good wine to share with your date without having to overspend on someone you may never see again.

BEST EXCUSE TO EAT CARNE ASADA BEFORE 11 AM ON A MONDAY

ACME Bar's Meat Shake

2115 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley 510-644-2225 ACMEBarCo.com

On weekends, you have the option of upgrading ACME Bar's already delicious Bloody Mary into a "meat shake." This means that in addition to a few skewers of whatever garnishes the bartender decided to stack his or her station with that day — chunks of pepperjack cheese, pickles, or peppers — for example — the meat shake is also topped with a skewer of two pieces of salty, umami-rich carne asada. The drink is already a meal in a glass, but the meat ups the ante even more. It's worth noting that the meatless Bloody Mary is already among the best in the East Bay with just the right amount of spice. You probably weren't looking for another reason to day-drink on the weekends, but if you were, now you have one.

BEST FRIED CHICKEN SANDWICH

Beauty's Bagel Shop

3835 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-788-6098, BeautysBagelShop.com

Everything at Beauty's Bagel Shop is consistently made with care and integrity but no item is as delectable — or indulgent — as its fried chicken sandwich. For starters, the chicken breast is tender, juicy and bursting with flavor. The fry is crisp but not greasy. It's served underneath a bed of bright purple beet coleslaw that expertly straddles the line between tangy and creamy. All at once, it's hot, cool, savory and sweet. The sandwich is nothing if not a bold start to the day but for the hungover, or those simply craving fried food, there couldn't be a better option. Because even when the line creeps out the door there's never a very long wait at Beauty's.

BEST BAR FOR DRINKING AFTER A BREAKUP

Schmidt's Tobacco Trading Co. & Pub

1452 Solano Ave., Albany, 510-525-1900

By the time you've reached the heavy drinking phase of breakup depression — i.e. once you are able to get your weepy self out of bed — it's best to find a watering hole that will accommodate both your thirst and tears. You want a bar that's unpretentious, where you can feel comfortable drinking for hours on end — and can do so without going broke. Plenty of dive bars will do the trick, but sometimes it's best to go where there's a minimal risk of running into people you know. Schmidt's Tobacco Trading Co. & Pub in Albany definitely fits the bill. The English-style hooney pub best known simply as The Pub, has been around for decades and is a cozy spot to drown your sorrows with a group of friends or by your lonesome. There are plenty of decent, affordable beers (cash-only) as well as friendly regulars who are happy to chat or play a board game with you (or leave you alone if that's what you prefer). The space feels like a living room, so the social pressure of a typical bar is blessedly lacking — meaning you can slump in a comfy armchair and drink, drink, drink.

BEST POWER-LUNCH NOODLE SOUP

Vien Huong Restaurant

712 Franklin St., Oakland, 510-465-5998

If it's a quick, filling, affordable and delicious lunch you seek during the workweek, look no further than Vien Huong. The house special aka the Chow Jow Ho Fun, is one of the best noodle soups in Chinatown. The star here is the clear, light chicken broth, which you can season to your liking with chili, sriracha, lemon, vinegar and Vien Huong's house-made chili sauce, which is fishy and pungently delicious. The broth comes with several kinds of meat, including shrimp, fish cakes, and chicken, as well as rice noodles of your choosing (thin, flat, or thick). With long cafeteria-style tables Vien Huong is ideal for the solo diner looking to get in and get out. There are a host of other enticing items on the menu, but when the noodle soup is this great, it's hard to want anything else.

BEST PLACE TO REGULARLY SCORE A $3 IPA

Rosamunde Sausage Grill

511 Washington St., Oakland, 510-338-2108, RosamundeSausageGrill.com

Every day from 3–7 p.m., Rosamunde Sausage Grill in Old Oakland offers Bear Republic Brewing Co.'s Racer 5 on tap for $3. Racer 5 is as solid an IPA as they come and let's be real — $3 is a steal for a draft beer, let alone a better-than-average one. Better still, there are long wooden tables inside the restaurant as well as outside of it, making it an ideal spot to congregate with friends and coworkers to get your drink on en masse. And don't worry that your non meat-eating companions will feel left out: Rosamunde slings all different kinds of sausages, including those of the vegan persuasion. If you get tired of drinking Racer 5, there are fifteen other craft beers on tap to suit any palate, as well as wine.

BEST DRINKS AT A BAR YOU WILL WANT TO DANCE AT

Bar Three Fifty-Five

355 19th St., Oakland, 510-451-2355

There are two kinds of bars in this world — those for dancing and those for drinking. Unfortunately, the two don't intersect that often. The best venue to get your (well-made) drink on and your dance on in the East Bay is Bar Three Fifty-Five. The house cocktails are are-



Best beer garden: Lost and Found. Brad Wenner

active and delicious. Take the gin and tonic for example: It's pretty hard to screw a G&T up, but making a memorable one is not as simple as you'd think. But attention to detail reigns supreme at Three Fifty-Five, where the tonic is made in-house, and is worth the hype. And on any given night of the week — but especially the weekend — DJs spin an eclectic mix of dance-floor-friendly jams. The dance floor itself is intimate and surrounded by mirrors, meaning you may even be able to avoid spilling your delicious drink.

BEST BEER GARDEN

Lost and Found Beer Garden

2040 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-763-2040, LostandFound510.com

There's something distinctly, deeply Oakland about the new beer garden from the folks behind the Layover, and it's not just the massive, all-caps "OAKLAND" painted on the south wall of the bar's outdoor space. Maybe it's the diversity — hipsters and hippies standing in the bathroom line with punks and metal heads and Cool Dads and all the other subcultures that make this city great. Maybe it's the casualness — at a moment when so many bars feel like the drinking equivalent of white-table restaurants, all lacquer and loud music, Lost and Found is more like hanging out in the backyard of one of your coolest friends, if said friend somehow had a dozen great beers on tap, made a really good crispy pig's ear, and had an excellent collection of succulents. Or maybe it really is as simple as those dozen beers and those really, really strangely good pig's ears. This is a place that takes eating and drinking seriously. Or hella seriously, you might say.

BEST MEDITERRANEAN FOOD

Wally's Café

3990 San Pablo Ave., Emeryville, 510-597-1363

Wally's Café is the epitome of a "hole in the wall" restaurant. To enter the café, you can either take the side entrance near the trashcans or go through the Bank Club, a lutesky, dimly lit dive bar that has a door in the back connecting to the cafe. The one-room café, with its white walls and sparse decorations, has an open kitchen buttressed by an old-school diner counter and wooden swivel chairs. It's a no-frills kind of place, but the quality and deliciousness of the food make up for it. The menu has every Mediterranean staple you could possibly think of: kababs, gyros, shawarma, hummus, tabbouleh, *fattoush* and Greek salads, dolmades, and baba ghanoush, as well as a few non-Mediterranean staples like cheeseburgers, burritos, panini, and French fries. Nine times out of ten, you'll find Wally himself behind the counter too. But the best part about this place is the free bowl of amazing lentil soup and slice of baklava that comes with every order.

BEST NOT-TOO-SWEET COCKTAIL

Buffalo Negra at Make Westing

1741 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-251-1400, MakeWesting.com

Pity the savory-cocktail fan. Unless you want a Bloody Mary at all hours of the day (spoiler alert: You do not), you're stuck swilling vodka sodas. Not at Make Westing though, where the Buffalo Negra offers a symphony of acid (balsamic vinegar), herb (basil), gentle spice (ginger beer), and, of course, booze (whiskey). Complex, balanced, and remarkably hefty for such a refreshing drink, it's an ironic drink at a bar with plenty already, and it's the kind of cocktail you remember for minutes, maybe days after drinking. No more vodka sodas!

BEST VEGAN BURGER

No No Burger

Jack London Square Sunday farmers' market, Webster and Water Sts., Oakland, and Concord Market, 2151 Salvio St., Concord, 415-710-9220, NoNoBurger.com

The No No burger defies vegetarian and vegan stereotypes. These burgers are huge and messy. The patties do not crumble and fall apart. And even though they are made from







organic soy protein, they're so hearty and robust that even the staunchest meat-eater could be fooled. The patties and the secret sauce are house-made and the burger's fixins — lettuce, tomato, raw and caramelized onion, sautéed mushrooms, and Arabian shallot — are locally sourced. If you want vegan cheese, No No's got it, but it also has regular ol' Swiss, cheddar, and blue, too. Wash down your burger with root beer and top your meal off with a side of hand-cut regular or sweet potato fries. The only downsides to No No Burger are that it's cash only and doesn't have a permanent storefront. Instead, you'll find it in a food truck or farmers market tent, or at other special events around the East Bay. According to its website No No plans on opening a permanent location in Oakland by the end of this year so keep an eye out.

BEST AUTHENTIC PAKISTANI FOOD

Kabana Restaurant

1925 University Ave., Berkeley 510-845 3355, KabanaRestaurant.net

There are lots of options for Indian food in the East Bay but when it comes to Pakistani restaurants Kabana is one of the few — and definitely the best — in terms of spiciness and authenticity. If you order standard fare like *chana masala* or *paneer tikka masala*, you won't be disappointed, but you will be missing out. Pakistani cuisine is famous for its meat dishes, and the restaurant's *karahi* boneless lamb and chicken (*karahi* refers to a thick, deep-bottomed pan) are excellent, with perfectly seasoned and tender meat. Ultimately, what makes the restaurant stand out is the *haleem*, which isn't listed on the menu though is served as a daily special. The slow-cooked beef, lentil, and barley stew spiced with coriander, cumin, turmeric, chili powder, and fenugreek, is a staple of Pakistani cuisine, typically served during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan. Kabana's version always hits the spot.

BEST VIETNAMESE-INFUSED SOUP THAT WILL CURE WHAT AILS YOU

Best Taste Restaurant

814 Franklin St., Oakland, 510-444-4983

Nothing is as therapeutic and comforting on a cold day — or a sick day — than a bowl of piping hot Chinese herbal soup and there's no better place to procure said soup than at the little hole-in-the-wall in Chinatown, where the daily soup will only run you $4.99. The soups are "double-boiled" sealed in clay jars and kept hot inside a giant steamer — great for when you're in a hurry as it doesn't take but a minute for the server to bring your order to the table. Whether the day's selection is a pork or chicken soup it's sure to feature a clear clean tasting broth and loads of Chinese herbs, ginseng, fragrant *dang gui*, and sweet goji berries. The restorative power of these soups is nothing to sniff at — they've single-handedly cured everything from head colds to stomach bugs.

BEST PLACE TO BRUNCH WITH KIDS

Gaumenkitzel

2121 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-647 5016, Gaumenkitzel.net

This West Berkeley slinger of schnitzel and spaetzle is one of the most surprisingly kid-friendly restaurants in the East Bay — surprising only because this is a serious restaurant, where nearly every item on the menu is made from scratch. Chuck E. Cheese it ain't. Between the airy space (with room for tots to wander, and toys to keep them occupied), the colorful kids utensils and dishware, and, especially, the extensive (and not-dumbed down) kids menu, which features unexpected toddler hits like rosemary and cannellini bean soup and bockwurst served atop cheesy spaetzle, this is our favorite place to dine out with little ones. The truth is there isn't really a bad time to bring children to Gaumenkitzel. The kids menu is always the same. But we've found the weekend brunch to be especially pleasant, with the dining room filled with sunlight, the scrambled eggs served with sweet homemade ketchup on the plate and — most important — scans of the stress of a crowded brunch scene.

BEST CHINESE BREAKFAST

Tian Jin Dumplings

999 Franklin St., Oakland, 510-459-6255

For those who have spent time living in cities such as Taipei or Beijing, some of the most longed-after foods aren't things like high end dim sum or elaborate seafood banquets — you can find passable versions of those in the Bay Area if you know where to look. Some of the best food experiences you can have in China are the dirt-cheap, infinitely satisfying street-food breakfasts, which, until Tian Jin Dumplings opened in Oakland's Chinatown last year, were practically non-existent in these parts. Hit up this little takeout window first thing in the morning for ridiculously inexpensive steamed pork buns, sweet soy milk, and, best of all, *jianbing guozi*, or giant egg-coated crepes that are stuffed with Chinese fried crullers, savory soybean paste, and pickled mustard stems. There isn't a better way to kick-start your day.

MOST SURPRISING BAR MENU

Dragon Gate Bar and Grille

305 Broadway Oakland, 510-922-8032, DragonGateBarGrill.com

The first thing that catches your attention at this Jack London neighborhood cocktail haven probably is the flashy Chinese-inspired decor (bamboo plants, red paper lanterns, etc.) the waitresses' slinky thigh length qipaos, or the posh private karaoke rooms behind the headed curtain in back. This is the kind of place where the food usually gets second (or third or fourth) shrift when you're lucky if you can snag a decent plate of chicken wings or a bowl of soupy noodles. What a pleasant surprise it is then, that Dragon Gate serves the most extensive — and tastiest — selection of Taiwanese street food noodles, and rustic home-style dishes that we've encountered in the East Bay. Just try a bowl of the spicy beef noodle soup, which is studded with cubes of tender brisket and tendon, the sizzling, aromatic "three-cup sauce" chicken, or the simple dried radish omelet. You'll swear you're sitting at your Taiwanese auntie's kitchen table and not in some swanky karaoke lounge.

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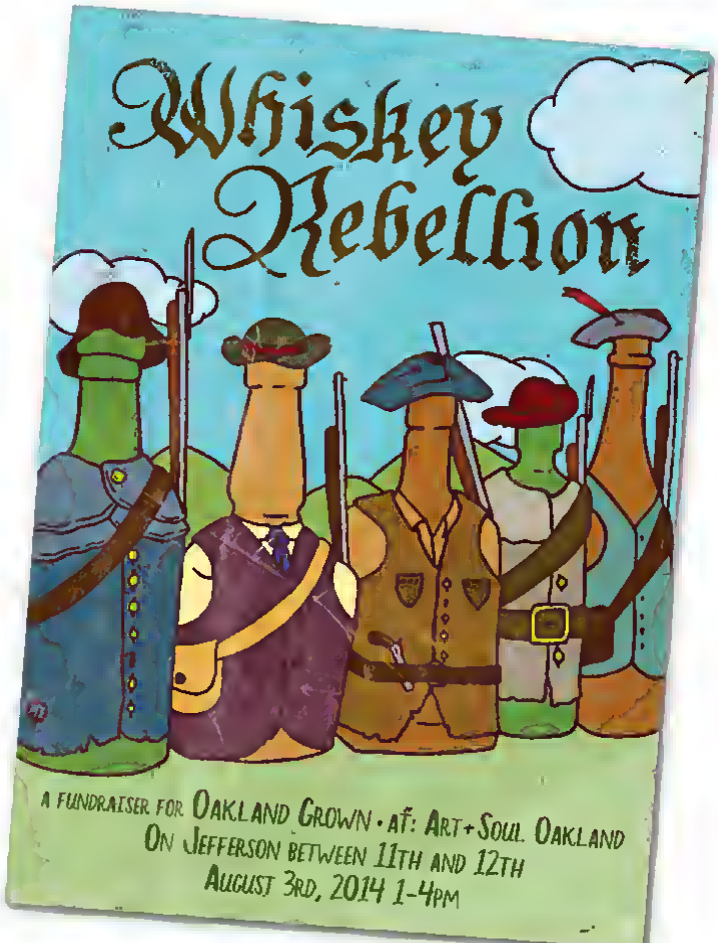
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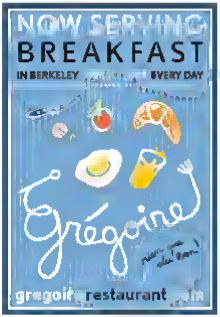
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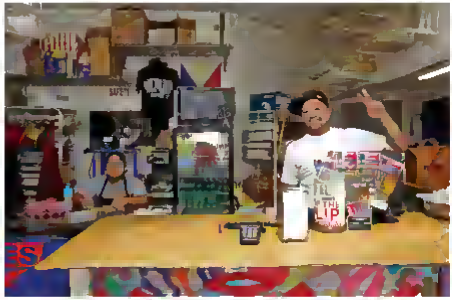
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Best steam-table takeout fare: Lucky Three Seven — Binal Warner





BEST STEAM-TABLE TAKEOUT FARE

Lucky Three Seven

2955 Fruitvale Ave., Oakland, 510-789-6343, LuckyThreeSeven.Webs.com

Steam-table food gets a bad rap, which is understandable. With the Bay Area's foodie fixation on freshness and from-scratch cooking, food that's been sitting in a warming tray for a couple of hours doesn't normally hold much appeal. "Normally," however doesn't apply when you're talking about the daily-rotating selection of lovingly slow-cooked stews and other homestyle dishes at this family-run Filipino spot in East Oakland. We can't think of many takeout meals better than a plate of Lucky Three Seven's tuna (savory ground-meat stir-fry) chicken adobo, or *kare-kare* (an unctuous peanut-sauce-based oxtail stew). Everything goes down great with white rice, and regular customers know to supplement their meal with a few of Lucky Three Seven's enormous, piping hot *lumpias* (egg rolls), which are, of course, fried to order. It helps that the place is fun and unpretentious, with the owners blasting old-school hip-hop from the speakers and handing out samples like it's nobody's business.

BEST SPECIALTY MARKET FOR NOODLE-LOVING HOME COOKS

Yuen Hop Co.

824 Webster St., Oakland, 510-451-2698

From the outside Yuen Hop looks like any other grocery store and produce market in Chinatown — plastic bins filled with bitter melon, *ong choy* and other Chinese greens in front; a panoply of canned and dry goods in the back. But Chinatown regulars know that the best reason to go to the market is for its amazing selection of fresh noodles: rice and dumpling wrappers — almost every imaginable variety, all made fresh in-house every day since 1931. Need chewy alkaline noodles for making Japanese ramen? Skinny egg noodles for a quick stir-fry? Dim sum style rice noodle rolls? Wrappers for making homemade gyoza or pierogies? Whatever your noodle needs are, chances are that Yuen Hop has you covered, with bargain-basement prices — $1 or $2 for a giant bag of noodles — to boot.

BEST REINVENTED FAST FOOD JOINT

Oralia's Kitchen

12563 San Pablo Ave., Richmond, 510-232-2128

Launched in the site of a former Louisiana Fried Chicken, Oralia's Kitchen took a generic fast food menu and replaced it with something a whole lot more interesting: a mix of scratch-made Salvadoran homestyle dishes and Mexican taqueria standards, plus a couple of original fusion creations that wouldn't be out of place at a trendy gourmet food truck. The Fried "Chickurrito" is brilliant stoner food — Cajun spiced fried chicken strips, sour cream, seasoned rice, and chipotle cream sauce, all wrapped up in a tight four-tortilla bundle. For traditionalists, Oralia's offers some of the best, and most authentic, home-cooked Salvadoran dishes in the East Bay: fluffy, well-charred *loroco pupusas*; Salvadoran style pork empanadas, and breakfast burritos stuffed with plantains and scrambled eggs. Oralia recently moved, and as of press time, the owners were only serving a stripped-down deli menu while they set up their new kitchen. But if all goes according to plan, the Chickurrito — and all of the restaurant's other unique, tasty offerings — will soon rise again.

BEST SERVICE AT A RESTAURANT

Pizzaiolo

5008 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-652 4888, PizzaioloOakland.com

They're a generally degenerate and unreliable group of people, but if there were ever something Yelpers are good for, it's nitpicking about restaurant service. So it says something when the vast majority of a place's thousand-some-odd reviews aren't just positive about the service, but downright *rhapsodic*. And for good reason. Pizzaiolo's vast army of bussers, bartenders, servers, and hosts are, without a doubt, the most efficient, pained, and friendly in the East Bay. This is the land of place where the host recognizes you after a grand total of one visit; where your server can tell from across



Best new outdoor drinking spot: Westbrae Biergarten Brad Wemer

the room, as though by magic or supersonic hearing or both, that you've dropped your fork or would like some hot sauce, where, if the kitchen is running slow, a black shirted fairy will drop by your table with complimentary bread or wine to take you over. Owner Charlie Hallowell is rumored to put his staff through rigorous training, suffice it to say it shows.

MOST INVENTIVE COCKTAIL

Gold Spike at Honor Bar

1411 Powell St., Emeryville, 510-653-6667, HonorEmeryville.com

Celery, mustard, lemon — they'd make a decent salad, if they didn't also make the East Bay's best new cocktail. (Don't worry: there's booze in there too — namely tequila and Montenegro amaro, plus agave and ginger ale.) Complex, refreshing, ever-so-slightly fizzy, and not too sweet, this is a cocktail tailor-made to be enjoyed on a warm summer evening, preferably with one of the criminally underrated bar/restaurant's saltiest, fattest, dishes (try the salted cod brandade) — after all, you're already getting your greens in.

BEST NEW OUTDOOR DRINKING SPOT

Westbrae Biergarten

1289 Gilman St., Berkeley, 510-647-9079, WestbraeBiergarten.com

As soon as it opened in June, Westbrae Biergarten, a new outdoor beer garden in West Berkeley, began attracting large crowds from the surrounding neighborhood and beyond. It's hard to ignore the appeal. The beer garden — modeled after a successful one in San Francisco's Hayes Valley neighborhood — presents a relaxed, family-friendly environment with the surprisingly calming backdrop of BART trains whizzing by on nearby elevated tracks. The joint offers a rotating beer selection of pints ($6) and one-liter steins ($12) as well as draft wines by the glass ($11) and carafe ($45). Berkeley favorite Fede's Brazil Cafe has set up a stand-on site, serving delicious to-up sandwiches, "flying pigs," (a chicken nuggets wrapped in bacon, and other snacks that pair well with beer. And going to Westbrae Biergarten feels like attending a family barbecue — there's even a beanbag toss and small basketball hoop to keep kids entertained. The joint is also just a short walk away from the Ohlone Greenway and offers a great new outdoor spot to spend a weekend afternoon with friends or family.

BEST PLACE TO END YOUR EVENING

Radio

435 13th St. Oakland, 510-451-2889

Radio's got a lot going for it, even when you discount the place's signature end-of-night move of pouring lighter fluid on the bar and setting it on fire. The happy hour lasts an absurd five hours (from 4 to 9 p.m.) every day of the week and includes $5 manhattans, house martinis, and cosmos, $4 Racer 5 IPAs, and $6–$7 cheap-beer-and-a-shot deals involving tequila, Jameson, or Fernet. The baffling Chinese-bite décor (red lanterns, Asian bat decals, a bamboo-esque font) clashes with the divey atmosphere in a way that's somehow delightful, the clientele is strange-good, and the DJ spins *actual* vinyl (old school hip-hop and jazz by the likes of Heleo Humes and Anita O'Day). But let's be honest: Even if you gave two hoks about the décor, it would still pale in the face of the bar's frequently occurring, late-night pyrotechnics. So you'd do well to stick around for the show, even after the long happy hour is over. ●







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BEST RETRO SPORTS ACTIVITY

Berkeley Lawn Bowling

2270 Acton St., Berkeley, 510-841-2174, BerkeleyLawnBowling.org

When you want to spend your weekend outdoors but don't have the energy for a hike or bike ride, lawn bowling offers a nice, relaxing alternative. And at the Berkeley Lawn Bowling Club, coaches give beginners free lessons every Saturday and Sunday at 10 a.m., so there's no excuse not to give it a try. All you need to bring is a pair of flat-soled shoes and a few friends if possible; you can generally play singles games or with teams of two to four players. For those who aren't familiar, lawn bowling is a very old game — and a very simple one — in which players try to roll their balls as close as possible to a smaller ball, called the jack. It's like a sort of shuffleboard, croquet, and bocce — all played outdoors on a well-kept lawn in the middle of Berkeley. And at this club, resolute have the added bonus of learning from members of a group that has been around since the 1920s, making it a truly vintage East Bay pastime.

BEST BAR TO GET DUMPED (AND REBOUND) IN

The Ruby Room

132 14th St., Oakland, 510-444-7224

You didn't know dating was a sport? Well, it is. And it's damn hard. But breaking up in a bar is even harder. Admittedly, it's a gauche move, but hey, sometimes you need neutral territory, and it's usually too blustery to Dear John your lover at Lake Merritt (plus, no one wants to contend with all that goose poop). Cue the Ruby Room. This dank little downtown dive is mellow enough most nights that no one — even the craziest exlovers — would think of starting a scene. The bartenders are decent mixologists, sympathetic listeners, and easy on the eyes. The drinks are cheap ($4 wells, and good microbrews on tap) and far stronger than that dinghy who just jilted you. Plus, the punk aesthetic mirrors your angst — let Joy Division be your only joy. The bar is dark, too — the only light that squeaks through is a blood-lust red — so no one will be able to see you cry. That coffin-like darkness — plus the narrow space, pool table, and comfy booths, also provide the perfect backdrop for that necessary yet regrettable rebound that is surely sitting on the next stool over.

BEST LOCAL PORNOGRAPHER

Courtney Trouble

CourtneyTrouble.com

Earlier this year, pornographer Courtney Trouble delivered the closing keynote speech at the Feminist Porn Conference in Toronto. It was a well-deserved honor. Trouble is a radical activist whose hardcore films feature queer, trans, plus-size, and minority performers. In addition to working with groups that the rest of the industry has more or less deemed "unsellable," Trouble's films are radical in that they attempt to depict genuine pleasure and showcase open communication during sex. In other words, she supports consent, and the idea that real sex is hot sex. Her works as a pornographer and performer are so excellent that they're increasingly attracting the attention of the mainstream porn industry, which nominated her for multiple industry awards this year. And her influence is far-reaching. Her films have been screened at festivals throughout North America, Europe, Australia, and the Middle East. With Trouble at the helm of the scene, the East Bay has blossomed into the epicenter of queer and feminist pornography.





READERS POLL WINNERS

BEST BIKE RIDE
Bay Bridge Trail

BEST BOOT CAMP
Proaction Athletics

BEST FITNESS INSTRUCTOR
Jennifer Lynch at Game Changer Fitness

BEST GROUP ATHLETIC ACTIVITY
BeFit sessions at Balanced Fitness for Moms

BEST GYM
Game Changer Fitness

BEST NEIGHBORHOOD PARK
Mosswood Park

BEST OUTDOOR OR SPORTING GOODS STORE
REI

BEST PLACE TO HIKE
Redwood Regional Park

BEST PLACE TO PICNIC
Tilden Park

BEST PLACE TO SUN
Lake Merritt

BEST PLACE TO SWIM
Mills College Pool

BEST YOGA STUDIO
Monkey Yoga Shala

BEST YOGA TEACHER
Tim Thompson

MOST UNUSUAL ATHLETIC EVENT
Recreational Adult Dodgeball League

MOST RELAXING WORKOUT

Monday Night Flow at Flying Studios

4308 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-316-7533, Flying-Studios.com

"Relaxing" and "workout" aren't necessarily words we want going together, but if ever there were an exception to that axiom, it'd probably be 9 p.m. on a Monday night. Enter Monday Night Flow. Flying Studios instructor Kimberly Hobbs' mindful weekly class, which starts slow, stays mellow (if you're looking for a hair-breaking, heart-pumping yoga class, this ain't the one for you) and ends with — wait for it — a brief, glorious head and face massage from Hobbs' capable hands. Most relaxing of all? It's donation-based.

BEST BIKE RIDE THROUGH THE BACKWOODS

Canyon, California

Many Oakland residents — especially newcomers — don't realize it, but just a few minutes from town, there's a deep redwood forest that will remind you of the Santa Cruz Mountains, or perhaps Mendocino and Humboldt counties. And one of the best ways to explore it is by bike, particularly as you roll along the back roads through the tony town of Canyon, nestled behind Redwood Regional Park, between Oakland and Moraga. The best way to get there is to pedal south up Mountain Boulevard and then through Butters Canyon via Japan Miller Drive. Then head south on Skyline Boulevard before turning left onto Redwood Road. At the bottom of the hill go left onto Pinehurst Road, then you'll descend into Canyon, which is on Pinehurst just past Canyon Road. Don't bother bringing your cellphone — you won't get any reception.

BEST HIKE IN THE SUN

Stonewall-Panoramic Trail in Claremont Canyon Regional Preserve

EBParks.org

If you want to get some serious rays while working out, there's no better hike in the East Bay than the Stonewall-Panoramic Trail in Claremont Canyon Regional Preserve in the Berkeley hills. The trail also offers some of the best views in the Bay Area. If you want to warm up your calves and quads before taking on the super-steep parts of the hike, start off at Willard Park in Berkeley and head east up Derby Street toward the hills. You'll then connect to the trail via a staircase at the intersection of Derby and Tanglewood Road. Within minutes, your heart will be pumping as you begin your ascent. First, you'll hike through a towering eucalyptus grove before coming upon the first of a series of lookouts that provide sweeping views of San Francisco Bay. Then the steep part of the trail begins as you head up to the top of Panoramic Way. But don't stop there — keep going and connect to the East West Trail on UC Berkeley property. And don't forget water or sunscreen.

BEST URBAN BIKE RIDE

Bay Bridge Bike Path

Maritime Street and Burma Road, Oakland, 877 228-8655, BayBridgeInfo.org/Path

On September 3, 2013, the eastern span of the Bay Bridge opened to pedestrians and cyclists for the first time in history. Although the bike path on the new bridge dead-ends before Yerba Buena Island, it's an incredibly beautiful ride that gives cyclists an opportunity to ride parallel to the old Bay Bridge — a unique view that will gradually disappear as demolition continues to move forward over the next year. In addition to providing an unbeatable Instagram backdrop, the journey from Oakland to the bike path is also a colorful and fun one. Cyclists can access the trail from Shellmound Street in Emeryville (near the IKEA), but the trip through West Oakland is much more interesting. Head west on 7th Street past the West Oakland BART Station, under Interstate 880 and through a tunnel with some awesome graffiti waiting on the other side. From there, ride north on Maritime Street through an industrial area — an eerily quiet one, especially on weekends — until reaching the bridge bike path at Burma Road.



East recreational area, Roberts Regional Recreational Area. — Brad Wanner

BEST RECREATIONAL AREA

Roberts Regional Recreation Area

15570 Skyline Blvd., Oakland, 888-327 2757
EBParks.org/Parks/Roberts

There is no shortage of parks in the East Bay, but few have as many amenities as Roberts Regional Recreation Area. In addition to sweeping views of San Francisco and the bay, the 82-acre park has numerous picnic and BBQ spots, a baseball field, a sand volleyball court, an outdoor heated swimming pool, an archery range, hiking trails that connect to trails at the neighboring Redwood Regional Park, and a sprawling, wheelchair-accessible playground. The park opened in 1953 but the area known for its grove of redwood trees, has played a vital role in East Bay history since the early 1800s. Many pre-1940s structures were built using redwoods from the park, and two giant red woods, known as the "landmark trees," were used as navigational aids by sailors in order to avoid hitting a treacherous submerged rock that was once in the bay. Today the park is lush with redwood groves yet again (even the parking lot is chock full of them) — though hugging them remains optional.

BEST PLACE TO CAMP WITH A BUNCH OF FRIENDS

Anthony Chabot Regional Park

EBParks.org

Why drive for hours when you can go camping with your friends just minutes from home in the beautiful East Bay hills? Anthony Chabot Regional Park, nestled in the hills between Oakland and Castro Valley, offers a great weekend camping getaway that's super convenient. The park has 75 sites, including several group spots and large tent sites that can accommodate more than one family. Plus, there's lots of great hiking nearby and Redwood Regional Park is only a short drive away. You can book reservations up to twelve weeks in advance.

BEST ATHLETE

Missy Franklin

There are a lot of great athletes in the East Bay but UC Berkeley's swimming star Missy Franklin is a once-in-a-generation talent. Franklin burst onto the international scene at the 2012 Summer Olympic Games in London, capturing four gold medals — the most of any female athlete — and five medals overall. She also broke the world record in the 200 meter backstroke, her specialty. Then last year, she

CATEGORIES WE DIDNT THINK OF

BEST BIKE CLUB
Fremont Frenchwifers Bike Club
— Donna

BEST CHILDREN'S DANCE STUDIO
Lana Dance Institute
— Kim Carlyle

BEST BELLY DANCE TEACHER
The Lady Feni
— Galia Aharoni

BEST WALKING GROUP
Albany Area Walkers
— Judy Pomeno

BEST SPEEDING STUDD
Ride Oakland!
— Deb Collard

BEST INDOOR ACTIVITY
Pacific Pinball Museum
— Michael Schoss

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topped that amazing performance at the World Championships snagging six gold medals the most ever for a woman. If you didn't get to see her swim for Cal last year make sure you don't miss her this year because she plans to turn pro in 2015 as she reaches herself for the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro

BEST COACH WHO GOT NO RESPECT

Mark Jackson

Before Mark Jackson arrived in Oakland, the Golden State Warriors had only made the playoffs once in the previous seventeen years. Jackson then promptly took a young team, developed guard Steph Curry into a superstar, and led the Warriors to the playoffs in each of the past two seasons. In 2012-13 Jackson guided the team to a 47-35 record and a remarkable campaign into the second round of the playoffs. Then this year the Warriors finished 51-31 before losing in the first round to a superior Los Angeles Clippers team. But what did that get Jackson? His walking papers. Warriors management fired him, convinced that the team should have done better, despite the fact that Jackson had engineered the Warriors most successful run in two decades. No respect. Well, Mr Jackson: we respect you. And you are going to be missed.

MOST COMMUNITY-MINDED GROUP EXERCISE CLASS

Hi-Lo Exercise Class at the Downtown Oakland YMCA

2350 Broadway Oakland, 510-451-9622, OaklandYMCAEastBay.org

Every Monday and Wednesday morning for the last two decades, Jerk Hellaman has been leading a fun jazzercise-throwback-ass Hi Lo exercise class at the Downtown Oakland Y. Not only does Hellaman give you a great workout but the former Marine knows everyone in the class by name, and offers calls on the regulars, and even some of the newcomers. In come into a circle and lead a routine. One participant said that the class feels like "attending a friend's wedding and having a DJ play while you're dancing." The class has been together for so many years, that many often even party together on weekends going to group BBQs fundraisers bike rides, and attending each other's weddings. Speaking of that, Hellaman married one of the women in his Boot Camp class several years ago. His wife, Ellen Goldstein, usually leads the Hi Lo class with sit-ups and crunches.

BEST ARM SINCE ROBERTO CLEMENTE

Yoenis Céspedes

During a 24 hour-stretch last month, Oakland A's left fielder Yoenis Céspedes sent a very loud message to the rest of Major League Baseball. Go ahead, just try to run on La Potencia. In that span, two Los Angeles Angels players tested Céspedes' cannon of an arm and paid the price. First, it was Howie Kendrick, who tried to score when Céspedes bobbled a ball in the left field corner. Céspedes then uncorked a mind blowing, three-hundred foot on-the-fly heave to nail Kendrick at the plate. Then the next day, he did it again. This time, Albert Pujols went for third base on another ball that Céspedes had mutally misplayed. But then La Potencia grabbed the errant ball with his bare hand and whipped a perfect 250 foot bullet that made Pujols look silly. Cespedes, of course, has been wowing A's fans for some time with his freakishly strong and accurate arm. But these jaw-dropping, instant-GIF making, back-to-back throws on June 11 and 12 made the rest of the baseball world sit up and take notice — and perhaps remember the man with the greatest arm ever: the late Roberto Clemente

READERS SAY THE DARNDEST THINGS

BEST BOOT CAMP
Oakland Adventure Boot Camp
It is the bomb. Accept no substitute. — beatperse

BEST FITNESS INSTRUCTION
Ken at the YMCA
Come to the Saturday noon class and watch her (loving) verbal sparring with Roz, an elderly woman who is regular to the class. It's like watching a classic comedy duo. Plus Sara's workouts will kick your ass. — Nyen

Tim Thompson
I will nominate him in any category I can. — Tim rules — Britt Baigley

BEST YOGA STUDIO
Monkey Yoga Shala
This isn't your friend's meditative yoga. You'll sweat. And probably swear. But you'll feel great! — sv

BEST WEIRDE WOOD PARK
Mountain View Cemetery
No Seriously — Crissy King

BEST PLACE TO PICNIC
Tailgating at Ikea
Tailgating sounds right? Beer, food, friends. — Justin Carter

BEST PLACE TO RUB
Up the 32 steps that lead to my apartment
— Desirée Rose

MOST UNUSUAL ATHLETIC EVENT
Bike Polo
shirt rules! — steve woeb

The Color Run
I was blowing rainbows out of my nose for 2 days. — Chloe H







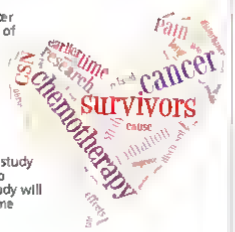


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ATTRACTIONS

The Quarantine With special guest appearance by [illegible]. Sat., July 26, [illegible], 14800 East 14th St., San Leandro. 510-614-1224.

Historic Bridges and Ferry [illegible] [illegible] Bay Bridge, Golden Gate Bridge, and San Rafael Bridge. Sat., July 26, 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. USS Potomac, 540 Water St., Oakland. 510-627-1502.

Laserium U2 [illegible] light show set to music by U2. Fridays, Saturdays, 8 p.m. [illegible] through July 31. $10.

Splashdown 45 Commemorating the recovery of the Apollo 11 by the USS Hornet [illegible]. Sat., July 26, 10 a.m.-[illegible]. USS Hornet Museum, 707 W. Hornet Ave., Alameda. 510-521-8448, USS-Hornet.org.

[illegible] [illegible] Chabot Space & Science Center, 10000 Skyline Blvd., Oakland. 510-336-7373, ChabotSpace.org.

FAIRS, FESTIVALS, & FIESTAS

2014 [illegible] Bazaar [illegible] Sat., July 26, 4-9 p.m., free. Berkeley Higashi Honganji Buddhist Temple, 1524 Oregon St., Berkeley. 510-843-6933, [illegible].

[illegible] 73rd Birthday Bash Birthday party for the chief with [illegible] musical performances. Sun., July 27, 7-9:30 p.m. $5-$20. La Peña Cultural Center, 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-2568, LaPena.org.

Berkeley [illegible] 48-Hour Summer Shorts [illegible] Filmmaker Challenge [illegible] Berkeley Community Center, 2239 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Berkeley. 510-848-2288.

[illegible] Oakland Drive-In [illegible] Fri., July 25, Sat., July 26. $12 per car [illegible] Alameda. 510-[illegible].

Park Street's 30th Annual Art & Wine Faire With arts, crafts, food, beer, wine [illegible]. Sat., July 26, 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Sun., July 27, 10 a.m.-6 p.m., free. Park Street [illegible], Alameda. 510-523-1392, ShopParkStreet.com.

HEALTH, WELLNESS, & SEXUALITY

[illegible] [illegible] Wed., July 30, 6:30-8:30 p.m. [illegible] Oakland. 510-[illegible], GoodVibes.com.

[illegible] Workshop [illegible] Mon., July 28, 7-8:30 p.m. $5. [illegible] 5300 Telegraph Ave., [illegible].

Lap-Dancing [illegible] Workshop [illegible] Fri., July 25, 7:30-9 p.m. $60 per couple. [illegible] 1001 Cabot Place, Oakland.

Healthy Lover [illegible] For ages 55 and up. [illegible] Tuesdays, 4-5 p.m., $3 suggested donation. South Berkeley Senior Center, 2939 Ellis St., Berkeley. 510-981-5170.

Meditation Group Mindfulness meditation session, with a short reading [illegible]. Tuesdays, 12:15-1 p.m., free. Tang Center, 2222 Bancroft Ave., Berkeley.

Nonviolent Communication: Embodying Empathy & Awareness [illegible] Through Aug. 12 [illegible]. Center for Transformative Change, 2584 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Berkeley. [illegible], TransformativeChange.org.

Peer Counseling With confidential drop-in counseling [illegible]. Mondays-Fridays [illegible]. Berkeley Free Clinic, 2339 Durant Ave., Berkeley. 510-548-2570, BerkeleyFreeClinic.org.

Weight Loss Made Simple [illegible] Sat., July 26, 11 a.m.-noon, free. [illegible] 1301 Park St., Alameda. 510-865-2388.

KIDS

A.C.E. [illegible] [illegible] Through Aug. 22, free. Peralta Hacienda Historical Park, 2465 34th Ave., Oakland. 510-532-9142, PeraltaHacienda.org.

Bug Hunts [illegible] Through Aug. 24. $5-$11 [illegible], free for members. Lawrence Hall of Science, 1 Centennial Dr., Berkeley. 510-642-5133, LawrenceHallofScience.org.

[illegible] [illegible] July 30, 1 p.m. Oakland Public Library [illegible] Branch [illegible].

Camp Kala [illegible] Youth Art Program [illegible] Aug. 11-15 [illegible] $300-$375 per week. Kala Art Institute Gallery, 2990 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. 510-549-2977, Kala.org.

Alameda's Story Time [illegible] Sun., July 27, [illegible], free. [illegible]

[illegible] [illegible] Sat., July 26, 2-3 p.m. [illegible] Public Library [illegible] 510-238-7344, OaklandLibrary.org.

[illegible] [illegible] Tue., July 29, 1 p.m. Oakland Public Library, Rockridge Branch, 5366 College Ave., Oakland. 510-597-5017, OaklandLibrary.org.

Derby Day Annual [illegible] Fri., July 25, 1-3 p.m., free. West Berkeley [illegible] 510-[illegible].

East Bay Vivarium Kids [illegible] Thu., July 24, 11 [illegible] a.m. Oakland Public Library, Temescal Branch, 5205 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-597-5049, OaklandLibrary.org.

Gardening, [illegible] Fri., July 25, 1:30-2:30 p.m.

[illegible] [illegible] Sat., July 26, 4 p.m. Albany Library, 1247 Marin Ave., Albany. 510-526-3720, AClibrary.org.

Kids on Stage Summer musical theater camp [illegible] Through July 21 [illegible] Berkeley. [illegible]

[illegible] Lab Design and build a [illegible] Through July 21 [illegible] Chabot Space & Science Center, 10000 Skyline Blvd., Oakland. 510-336-7373, ChabotSpace.org.

Lawrence Hall [illegible] Camp [illegible] Lawrence Hall of Science [illegible]

Magic Show with [illegible] Summer family program for kids and families. Wed., July 30, [illegible] p.m. Albany Library, 1247 Marin Ave., Albany. 510-526-3720, AClibrary.org.

[illegible] at the Library [illegible] Sat., July 26, 11 a.m. El Cerrito Library, 6510 Stockton Ave., El Cerrito. 510-526-7512, AClibrary.org.

Puppets [illegible] the Three [illegible] [illegible] Thu., July 24, 2 p.m. Richmond Public Library [illegible] Richmond. 510-620-6561, [illegible].

Saturday Storytime For kids ages five to six. Saturdays, 2 p.m., free. Barnes & Noble, 5604 Bay St., Emeryville. 510-547-0905, BarnesAndNoble.com.

Story Time [illegible] [illegible] Fri., July 25, 11 a.m. [illegible]

String [illegible] [illegible] Wed., July 30, 4-5 p.m. Berkeley Public Library [illegible] 510-981-6250.

Summer Fun Days at the Lawrence Hall of Science [illegible] Aug. 20, $5-$12, free for members. Lawrence Hall of Science, 1 Centennial Dr., Berkeley. 510-642-5132, LawrenceHallofScience.org.

Summer Music Academy Summer camp [illegible] Mondays-Fridays [illegible] through July 25 [illegible] Oakland Public Conservatory of Music, 1616 Franklin St., Oakland. 510-836-6449, OPCMusic.org.

Wind Turbine Lab Participants [illegible] Wed., July 30, 1 & 3 p.m.; Thu., July 31, 1 & 3 p.m.; Fri., Aug. 1, 1 & 3 p.m.; Sat., Aug. 2, 1 & 3 p.m.; Sun., Aug. 3, 1 & 3 p.m. $5. Chabot Space & Science Center, 10000 Skyline Blvd., Oakland. 510-336-7373, ChabotSpace.org.

PICKS

Pedalfest

Oakland's biggest bike party is back. Now entering its fourth year, Pedalfest at Jack London Square (Broadway and Embarcadero) brings together a whole range of East Bay biking subcultures. This year, in addition to the festival's usual thirty-foot-long wooden Whackydrome bicycle stunt shows, and a pedal-powered music stage, there will be a unicycle basketball game and an exhibit from the Exploratorium examining the science behind cycling. Industrial arts teaching center The Crucible will also host a bike build with some of its artists, and Peter Wagner will once again display his Whyacycles, a collection of handmade bicycles created from recycled materials. For customers and bike-riders, hop on a bike to churn out some pedal-powered ice cream or head to the New Belgium Beer Garden. Not content to just entertain, the organizers are also bringing a theft-prevention booth to this year's festivities, at which cyclists can take a photo of their bicycle and receive a serial number that they can use to file a police report if it's ever stolen. *— Zarah Mohammed*

Saturday, July 26, 11 a.m.-7 p.m., free. PedalfestJackLondon.com



Take a ride on the Whackydrome.

Berkeley Kite Festival

On any given weekend at Cesar Chavez Park (11 Spinnaker Way, Berkeley), you will likely find skilled kite fliers practicing their craft. But this weekend, expect to see far more and far greater kite-related artistry at the Berkeley Kite Festival. The festival, which started in 1986, has grown into a giant kite extravaganza, featuring teams of kite fliers, a kids zone with bouncy houses and a petting zoo, and food and arts and crafts vendors. The Berkeley Kite Wranglers will also be on hand to demonstrate their Octopia, a formation of 16 Octopus kites that are each 100 feet long and 28 feet across. On the main exhibition field, teams will perform choreographed kite flying routines set to music. For newcomers who are inspired to try their hand at kite-flying, Highline Kites will have kites for sale, and there will be kite-making workshops on both Saturday and Sunday from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. In addition to the parking at the marina, there will be free valet bike parking and offsite parking at Golden Gate Fields with buses running back and forth. *— Z.M.*

Saturday and Sunday, July 26 and 27, 10 a.m.-6 p.m., free. BerkeleyKiteFestival.com

LGBT

[illegible] Oakland Group A drop-in peer group for [illegible] in a free, confidential environment. Thursdays, 1-3 p.m., free. Pacific Center, 2712 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley. 510-548-8283, PacificCenter.org.

PETS

Community Veterinary Clinic, Oakland ([illegible]) VIP PetCare offers [illegible] vaccines for dogs and cats, affordable vaccine packages, pet microchipping, [illegible] Sundays, 10-11:30 a.m. Pet Food Express, [illegible] 510-530-5306, PetFoodExpress.com.

Feral Cat Foundation Adoptions [illegible] Saturdays, 12-4:30 p.m. FeralCatFoundation.org. Pet Food Express, North Oakland, 6398 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-923-9900, PetFoodExpress.com.

[illegible] Cat & Dog Adoptions [illegible] Saturdays, 12-4 p.m. Pet Food Express, Rockridge, 5144 Broadway, Oakland. 510-[illegible], PetFoodExpress.com.

[illegible] Adoption [illegible] 1-4 p.m. Pet Food Express, [illegible] Alameda. 510-[illegible], PetFoodExpress.com.

SALES, SWAPS, PROMOTIONS, & FUNDRAISERS

Alameda West End [illegible] [illegible] Saturdays, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. [illegible] Alameda. [illegible]

Meat [illegible] and [illegible] [illegible] of the North Oakland Farmers' Market. [illegible] Third Saturday of every month, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., free. 510-250-7958, [illegible].

Alameda Cult Fundraiser for the Berkeley Arts Residency featuring performances by [illegible]. Fri., July 25, 7:30 p.m. [illegible] 3182 Adeline St., Berkeley.

SOCIAL EVENTS

Birthday Party for the Berkeley Post Office With a birthday cake, music, and a group photo. Sat., July 26, 1-2 p.m. Berkeley Main Post Office, 2000 Allston Way, Berkeley.

Celebrating Peruvian Independence Day Celebration of Peru with performances [illegible]. Sat., July 26, 8:30-11 p.m. $13-$15. La Peña Cultural Center, 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-2568, LaPena.org.

[illegible] Re-Opening Party [illegible] Sun., July 27, 12-5 p.m. [illegible] Telegraph Ave., Oakland. [illegible]

[illegible] Evening [illegible] Sat., July 26, 6-11 p.m., $40. [illegible] Oakland. [illegible]

Passing the Torch: Celebrating the Leadership of [illegible] Celebrating the leadership and the work of [illegible]. Sun., July 27, 2-5 p.m. [illegible] Everett & Jones Barbeque, 126 Broadway, Alameda. 510-663-2350, [illegible].

Thursday Night Trivia Sat., July 26, [illegible] p.m., free. [illegible] Oakland. [illegible]

SPORTS & OUTDOORS-PARTICIPATORY

Albany [illegible] [illegible] Meet at [illegible] Ohlone Greenway [illegible] will provide free [illegible]. Sundays, 8-9:30 a.m., free.

[illegible] Boating Join the Alameda [illegible] Introductory [illegible] Meet at 2400 Mariner Square Dr., Alameda. Saturdays, 8:45-10:30 a.m., free. 510-[illegible], [illegible].

Bat The [illegible] Workshop on [illegible] Sun., July 27, 6:30-8:30 p.m., free. Alameda [illegible] 1522 Paru St., Alameda. 510-522-0071, [illegible].

[illegible] Forest School Exploration to the forest and [illegible]. Fridays, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Continues through July 25. $10. Redwood Regional Park, 7867 Redwood Rd., Oakland. [illegible]

[illegible] [illegible] Sun., July 27, [illegible] a.m. $45-$65. REI Berkeley, 1338 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. 510-527-4140, REI.com.

[illegible] Help pick up litter [illegible] Sat., July 26, 10:15-11:30 a.m.; Sat., Aug. 9, 10:15-11:30 a.m.; Sat., Aug. 23, 10:15-11:30 a.m.; Sat., Sept. 13, 10:15-11:30 a.m.; Sat., Sept. 27, 10:15-11:30 a.m. Oakland Public Library, [illegible] Branch, 1421 106th Ave., Oakland. 510-615-5726, OaklandLibrary.org.

The People's Yoga [illegible] Drop-in [illegible] Wednesdays, 1 p.m. $10. La Peña Cultural Center, 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-2568, LaPena.org.

[illegible] Open Night [illegible] Mondays, 7 p.m. $5. [illegible] Middle School, 5750 College Ave., Oakland. 510-879-2060.

SPORTS-SPECTATOR

A's vs. Astros [illegible] Thu., July 24, 12:35 p.m. $9-$95. O.co Coliseum, 7000 Coliseum Way, Oakland. 510-638-4627, [illegible].com.

Golden Gate Fields [illegible] [illegible] Sundays, $1. Golden Gate Fields, 1100 Eastshore Hwy., Berkeley. 510-559-7300, GoldenGateFields.com.

MUSEUMS & GALLERIES

ART GALLERIES

ARTS Gallery *Abstract Sonic Thirty Years of Kandinsky* Seven Exhibitions of work by eighteen Sonic Through Aug. 12. 1837 Harbor Ave., Berkeley. 510-843-2522. ARTSGallery.com.

Aggregate Space, *Sonified Acquisitions* Multi-event Exhibition in conjunction with Adobe Books Backroom Gallery. Soliciting responses to the camera-encounter. Books of the Day Area Through Aug. 2. 1011 Shorebird Sonic Ave., Berkeley. AggregateSpace.com.

Allamy Community Income *Mystery of Motion* Exhibition of work by Herb Schuett. Opening reception on Sunday July 27 from 1-3 p.m. Through Sept. 26. 1249 Marin Ave., Albany. 510-524-9186.

BABLAB, MASKALLAN Multimedia art installation exploring African Eastern identities. Closing receptions on Saturday July 26 and Sunday August 2. Through Aug. 2. 2414 Blue St., Oakland. Babylab.com/blackbird/

Berkeley Art Science Computer Junkie/ photos Box of works collected by Berkeley and Steven Wolf. Includes installation projects, live events, performances, and more. Through Aug. 10. from 12-1 (Noontime to 1st Lee Oak Park). Berkeley. 510-644-6800, berkeleyArt.org.

Grammy Public Library Central *Lesbian Pride Nigerian Exhibition of the Berkeley artist and author Ayotunji.* Through Aug. 3. 2090 Kittredge St. Berkeley. 510-981-6100. berkeleypublic.org/locations

Silverline Gallery and Shop, *Who's Haunt?* Silverside Exhibition of new contemporary works by Bay Area-based artist David Through Aug. 8 Inc. 1401 Broadway Oakland. 510-444-3419. Silverart.com.

Studio Sec Berkeley, *Sonified Acquisitions* Exhibition of works by the artist. Through July 31. 1700 Fourth St. Berkeley. 510-525-7777. Exhibition only Berkeley.

Studio Lucas Berkeley *We are the Exhibition of Lucas Berkeley* Exhibition of works by Blair Conway. Through July 24. 2617 2nd St. Berkeley. 510-290-3434. StudioBlairConway.com.

Studio Glass Gallery *We and Handle Sub-Exhibition by Lucas Conway* Through Aug. 23. 200 Jefferson St. Oakland. 917 261-9587. GlassArtGallery.com.

Graduate Lucas Art Center *Creative Lucas vs Anne Collier / Trisha Donnelly / Ben Schnorr / Matt Lucas / Laura Owens* Exhibition of seven Sonic artists by sand varnish. Elaine Donnelly, Erik Schuetzell, Katie Liberman, and Laura Owens Through Aug. 16. 2565 24th St., Oakland. 510-836-2340. OrantesGrowth.org.

Varnish Lucas Photography *Ina Mickelwaite and Ina Ray* Exhibition of photographs by and photography by the artists. Through July 31. Inc. 2125 Piedmont Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-1900. FourthPeelVarnish.com.

Vivid Berlin Center, *Berlin Near Group* Exhibition Berkeley on the theme of Berlin at night, weather, and remembering. Through Aug. 2. Postponed from the Day Exhibition of work by Jean Carter. Through Aug. 2. **Show Up Postponed** Forty-artists paint Oakland-related Alameda. Closes FrankBellaCenter.org for event details. July 26-Aug. 1. 1001 Park St., Alameda. 510-523-0807. FrankBellaCenter.org.

Full Moon Lucas Contemporaries Lucas Salon and Arts Blacklash Featuring mixed-media drawing by Lisa Kaiser and metal sculpture by Alex Mackintosh. Through July 26. 470 13th St., Oakland. 510-271-0446. FCPLucasArtsSalon.com.

Gary Lucas Fine Art Gallery *Redefining the Multiple Lucas* Exhibition of works by 3D Ray Area artists who use a variety of creative printmaking methods. 2-D and 3-D. Through Aug. 3. 1419a Park Street Alameda. 510-629-1175. www.GaryLucasFineArt.com.

Exhibition Lucas *Public Vogue Rooms* Throughout this month-long period Andrew Gibson and Timothy Hamilton will present a series of participatory "brainstorming" thematic Sonic interactive sessions, Art, and the Museum, and Anthropology Rooms will Blue Shoe on Saturday, July 19 from 1-3 p.m. Through Aug. 19. 1400 40th St., Oakland. MarketArtGallery.com.

Jerry Lucas Gallery Lucas *Spring 2014 Lucas Art Affiliate's* Showcasing selected works by students at Berkeley City College. Through Aug. 22. Inc. 2050 Lucas St., Berkeley. 510-981-2800. 800 Carlson road, 2nd.

Installation Projects, Adele Mackinlay + Jenny Gross Exhibition of new paintings by the two Adele. Through Aug. 16. 2300 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 415-444-9454. AdamsonProjects.com.

Space Lucas Gallery *The Square Still Art Absent From View Group* exhibit at Mads and works photographer. Through Aug. 28. 806 14th St., Oakland. 510-435-8815. JoyceGordonGallery.com.

Select Gallery & Tea Blooming *The Pastel Wave* To be Exhibition of oil paintings and pastels by Carl Steiger. Through Sept. 5. 1223 Lincoln Ave., Alameda. 740-707-1918. Adelle.com

Studio Art Museum Gallery, *Parallel Spectrum* Featuring new work by the 2013-2014 Kala Fellows. Through July 26. A variety Sonic **Bay Area Show Week + Postponed**

Museum Art Performance series celebrating the artwork of a hand-made gatefold format LP of music played with the 1970's of assigned site Sonic by Lucas owners by artwork visits. Saturdays 7-8:30 PM. Through Aug. 30. 35-820 suggested donation. 2990 and Fallon Ave. Berkeley. 510-847-7004. Gallery.org.

Ethnic Space *The characteristic Series Exhibition of work* by Students Exhibition Show Group Exhibit. Through Aug. 2. 1341 Treat and Sales Blvd. Albany. UrbanSpaceArts.com/Lucas Lithographers Sonic Room.

Gurney Gallery, Southern Exhibition of pioneer, and Bay Ink by Jason Jenkins. Through Aug. 28. Inc. 472-1600. Oakland. 510-282-2335. MannaGallery.com.

The Temple's Presented Institution Exhibition of abstract work by Nicholas Sacks. Through July 31. 2907 San Pablo Ave. Emeryville. TheMuseum.org.

Marion Jenkins, *The Three Subjective* Exhibition by Event Series, including a new series of videos which parodies the performance of the self during a job interview. Through July 27. Inc. 1275 Sixth St., Berkeley. 510-558-0303. MarionJenkins.com.org.

Berkeley 20 Gallery, *Breathing Space: New Sculptural Installations* Exhibition of two large-scale sculptural installations by Jenn Nunn. Through Aug. 9. *Geometrically Solo Exhibition* Artwork by Bob Takagawa. Through Aug. 9. 475 24th St., Berkeley. 510-444-3786. MercuryBerkeley.com.

MACA, Lands *Hills of Rhode Beaches* A recent photographic works by the artist. July 25-Aug. 3. 311 17th St., Oakland. 510-763-2346. Kinetic Imaging Foundation.

Spirit in Fine Art of the Firehouse North, Ethnic Space Exhibition and contemporary Group show featuring work by Bay Area artists and mixed-media works. Through Aug. 23. 1700 Broadway, Berkeley. 510-271-0290. MyYearPalmtown.com

Starting Lucas Starts Potter Sonic Exhibition of works by the Temple's ceramic painter. Through Aug. 2. Inc. 538 15th St., Oakland.

Roots Art Center, *Short Art works For Sale* Museum of events each from their Mad. Through Aug. 27. Exhibition of Three Mile Slue Sonic Bark artist Peggy Bee Hanson. Through Aug. 22. Diamonds In The Rough Exhibit showing an overview of the MAD jewelry judgment. Through Aug. 22. 501 23rd St., Richmond. 510-620-6505. MADArt.org.

Gamma Gallery Wall *Blue Life* Exhibition of artwork by three Oakland-based artists displaying the city's blue culture. Through July 31. Frank Lyons, Paige Hamilton, Phoebe. *Summer Stream* Featuring the culture of Hayward, New Haas Bay, Yet Bayer, and Lisa Bartleson. Through Aug. 23. Inc. 473 25th St., Berkeley. 510-467-0469. PhilTObbey.Oakland.com.

pop up Gallery *in Time Work* Exhibition of works and Museum by sixteen Bay Area artists. Through Aug. 4. 1547 Park St., sessions, PopUpGalleryGallery.com.

Pro Arts Gallery, *The Bespoke: Bay Area Artists* Exhibition of work by eighteen artists who blends Undocumented in Bay Area artists. Info on Friday, August 1 at 6:30 p.m. Through Aug. 8. 1501 Frank of Ogawa Plaza Oakland, 510-763-4361, ProArtsGallery.org.

work Studios & Gallery *Blue High the Sky* Showcasing the Artists Exhibition of works by five Oakland artists. Through July 26. 1900 Fairfield Ave., Alameda. 510-865-1900. 2nd Alameda.org.

Richmond Art Museum *Annual Members' Show* Exhibition of more than 300 works in 3 major artists, including watercolor, ceramics, media, painting. Basketry photography, sculpture, and drawing. Through Aug. 22. Inc. Ruth Ellis Museum Focus on Gay Exhibition of works from Bay Area artist Ruth Baumann's plaster exhibition of clay objects with works by Peter Rosser. Robert Brady Blossom Shaw Wu Ng, Robert Arneson, and more. Through Aug. 22. Inc. Sculptural Jewel Exhibition showcase in an array of styles and media by members of the Pacific Rim Sculptors Group. Through Aug. 22. Inc. Study and Sale of Sculpture Exhibition of artworks and purchase Joseph Busby and Ellis artwork. Through Aug. 22. Inc. 2540 Bancroft Ave., Richmond. 510-620-6772. TheRichmondArtCenter.org

Bon Books Art Gallery, *Masterpiece of Interactive Illustrations* and prints from eighteen works artists by Susan Simmons, Ian Mackenzie, Colleen Kaiser, Emma Schlegel, Sonia Gibson, Kate Lewis, and Ellen Weinhauer, Through Aug. 3. Inc. 2100 Bancroft Ave., San Pablo Ave. 510-849-2586. BonBooks.com.

BLAKE Contemporary Bruce Landscape Show featuring the work of and different painters from the Bay Area. Blue Berkeley for discussing landscape Blue + artwork eye. Through Aug. 16. Inc. 473 25th St. Oakland. 510-905-6655. StellaBarbaDesign.com

Studios Glass See work and PDF 1 Exhibition of paintings by Steven Simcox. Through July 26. 560 2nd Street, Oakland. 510-893-2186.

Bay Legal Boutique, *Immigration/Migration Pop-up Show* show featuring materials Berkeley photography and video. July 25. 8 p.m. Bookmark available. 2043 Piedmont Blvd., Oakland. 510-461-0430.

Tropical Exotics Jewelry, *Bold Group photo Art* exploring the physicality of attending sessions. Through Aug. 16. 895 Olson Ave., Berkeley. 510-827-1254. Berkeley .com.

MUSEUMS

Bancroft Library *The Originals* Exhibition highlighting the Berkeley that parallels Gilbert's desire to reinvent himself. Blue fill pioneering African American faculty and views administrators who joined Berkeley were the advent of alternative views Blossom in the 1970s. Through Sept. 1. UC Berkeley Bancroft Library. Berkeley.edu.

Cyphergroove Drum Museum Meets Saturdays 4 o'clock journey through a unique line of developing History—the Black-Jewish musical encounter from the 1930s to the 1960s. Daily 730 edition St., San Francisco. 415-346-7000.

Bon Library *Portugal's Exhibition Monuments And St.* 1476 Exhibition commemorating the oldest anniversary of Portugal's Exhibition military coup and Exhibition from dictatorship to democracy. Through Sept. 2. UC Berkeley campus, Berkeley. 510-643-6136.

Exploratorium, Trails of Life A Exhibition of ethnic and demonstrations examining the fundamental elements of memory at living the go. Daily 3601 Lyon St., San Francisco. 415-561-0360. Exploratorium.edu

Oakland, of East Asian Studies, *Work in the 1970s. Photographs from the Times Museum* Exhibition of Oakland collection of photographs that survived fires the 1937 seizure of American Times Blossom capturing images of a Times Museum's Buddhist tradition and works ethnic Through July 24. 2229 Fulton St., Berkeley. 510-643-6516. 4AS.berkeley.edu

Institute of Museum Art, Collection of Asian Artifacts *Collection Big Society Through Obstacles* An ongoing group show. Daily 3800 Chestnut St., Oakland. 510-452 Blues. Institute@museum.com.

Lucas Science of the Lucas, *Smashing Plastic Exhibition* and Beyond An Exhibition examining smashing and the end of waste manipulation historically and featuring. Through Oct. 14. Inc. Science and We Technical Blues a art a century of museum's and women's fighting. Through Sept. 1. 2582 Bancroft St., Berkeley. 510-643-7218. LucasMuseum.org.

Lawrence Hall of Science, *Women Rage* exhibit exploring the world of high art on extreme scale to understand why boys play a radical role in our environment, culture, and the global economy. Through Sept. 1. Scales on a free admission. Blue permanent exhibit Blossom an animated globe. Watch hurricanes form tsunamis



PICKS

The Lone Stranger

If you are a Steinfeld fan, you might be familiar with the illustrations of Chris Blackstock, who has been making posters for the EDM DJ for years. Indeed, Blackstock's drawings are like a hot summer surf trip that has been candy-coated and laid out in the sun to form a shiny shell. But Blackstock's current solo show at Lokal Gallery (300 2nd St., Oakland), *The Lone Stranger*, affirms that his artistic capabilities extend far beyond concert posters. The show captivates the Blackstock brand, fusing cohesive storylines and filling out the descriptive details of character and setting through a collection of stand-alone works. The exhibit's protagonist roams through a stylized desert — complete with cracked dirt and cactus — and at one point finds himself sitting atop a hillside in a ceramic pot with a wholeheartedly sarcastic smile. In *Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas*, Beyond that though, the show also appears as a release of giant-up enthusiasm for capsules strung with more tactile media. The standout works are the prisoners which Blackstock has re-united intricately laser-etched pictures of his figures onto wooden panel backgrounds painted with a combination of acrylic and spray paint. A series of laser-etched trees depicts a number of clay sculptures, and a mural also to those parts in completing the scene. Altogether, Blackstock's application of his illustrative style to these tossed media works from a remarkably numerous, psychedelic experience. — *Sarah Burke*

Runs through July 30. 510-747-9957 or SFOLocal.com

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Starbuhy Studio 1309 Park St
Spitzer Café 734 Central Ave

ALBANY

Ivy Comm 980 San Pablo Ave
Royal Café, 811 San Pablo Ave
Soyal Ground Coffee 1127 Solano Ave

BERKELEY

Alembique Apothecary 901 Hearst Ave
Annapurna 2416 Telegraph Ave
Bacheese s, 2950 Telegraph Ave
BBQ Hut, 6400 Shattuck Ave
Black Art, 811 University Ave
Bookrsh Bookstore 1818 Euclid Ave
Café Yesterday 1122 University Ave
Cruz Skate Shop 2505 San Pablo Ave
Extreme Pizza 3204 College Ave
Games of Berkeley 2151 Shattuck Ave
Gunmenkleur 2121 San Pablo Ave
Herbivore 2461 Shattuck Ave
La Pana Cultural Center 3105 Shattuck Ave
Local Butcher Shop, 1600 Shattuck Ave
Looking Glass Photography 1045 Ashby Ave
Minuteman Press, 1101 Fifth St
NextSpace 2081 Center St
Paste Bene, 2585 Telegraph Ave
Phoenix Pastifice 1250 Addison St
Sangeon Super Stars 2826 Telegraph Ave
Sawtirathi s, 3084 Claremont Ave
Tora e Organic Ice Cream, 3173 College Ave
Thalassa 2367 Shattuck Ave
The Brick Pig's House, 5073 Shattuck Ave
The Joint Chiropractic, 2628 Telegraph Ave
Yoga Kula, 1700 Shattuck Ave

EMERYVILLE

Azizmadi Cafe 4301 San Pablo Ave
Farley e Coffee 1195 65th St
Honor Kitchen & Cocktails, 1411 Powell St
Hot Italian, 5959 Shellmound
Rudy s Can t Fail Café 4081 Hollis St
Sebo Kick Gym, 6460 Hollis St

OAKLAND

Bettambang 850 Broadway
Betti Ono Gallery 1427 Broadway
Bicycle Coffee, 364 2nd St
Bonlern Bakery 3249 Grand Ave
Book Tree 5121 La Salle Ave
Charles Bludes Barber Spa 401 2nd St
Earth Circles Counseling Center, 580 Oakland Ave
Earthly Coffee Shop, 5506 Martin Luther King Jr Way
E.M Wolfman Sooks 410 13th St
Feelmore, 1703 Telegraph Ave
Field Day 329 19th St
Flight Deck, 1540 Broadway
Fruitvale Music School 1721 Broadway
G8 Sattes International Market, 821 Washington St
Good Hop bottle Shop 2421 Telegraph Ave
Haimeni Vintage 1601 2nd Ave
Hat & ac Espresso Bar & Fine Art Gallery 1714 Franklin St
Impact HUB, 2323 Broadway
James and the Giant Cupcake 6326 San Pablo Ave
Kelly e Corner Kids, 2026 MacArthur Blvd
KileVolt Coffee, 1829 Mandella Pkwy
Kogflish Pnb & Café 5227 Claremont Ave
Koimbra, 3268 Grand Ave
Lake Merritt Dental 1900 Webster St
LaQuiVwa 1525 Webster St
Legionnaire Saloon, 2272 Telegraph Ave
Lookal Boutique & Gallery 560 2nd St
Lost & Found Beer Garden 2040 Telegraph Ave
Mandala Market, 1430 7th St
Marcus Books, 3900 Martin Luther King Jr
Miiko 2725 MacArthur Blvd
The New Parkway Theater 474 24th St
Night Light, 311 Broadway
Nomadic Sojarns, 2626 Foothill Blvd
OakStop 1721 Broadway
Peppino Donut Farm 3037 San Pablo Ave
Patco Unleashed, 3300 Lakeshore Ave
Piedmont Grocery 4038 Piedmont Ave
Pollinate Farm & Garden, 2727 Fruitvale Ave
Bare Bird, 3883 Piedmont Ave
Resurrect, 4135 Piedmont Ave
Rockridge Library 5366 College Ave
SasenMum Cafiers, 10 Clay St
Ruby e Garden 5026 Telegraph Ave
Soho Gamun 988 Franklin St
Tasty Vapor 1017 22nd Ave
Two Mda Wins 477 25th St

RICHMOND/EL CERRITO

Artisan Kitchen & Café, 665 Marina Bay Pkwy
Assemble Sesieurant, 1414 Harbour Way South
Catalonia Coffee 12472 Sna Pable Ave
Cerrito Theater 10070 San Pablo Ave
El Cerrito Natural Grocery 10367 San Pablo Ave
Pikanka s Brazilian Steak House, 25W Richmond Ave
Richmond Arts Center 2540 Barrett Ave
Up & Under Restaurant, 2 West Richmond Ave

SAN LEANDRO

Sahara e Coffee 1273 MacArthur Blvd
Sweet Fingers Jamaican Restaurant, 464 E. 14th St
Zocalo Coffee 645 Bancroft Ave

THEATER & DANCE

COMEDY

Barbary Coast Comedy An evening of stand-up comedy featuring rolling,edge and up-and-coming comedians. Thursdays, 7:30 p.m., $5. The Legionnaire Saloon, 2272 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-663-9980, LegionnaireSaloon.com

Cracked Bad Comedy Night Comedy show hosted by Cracks and Mary. Fridays, 8 p.m. $10. Bike Cafe, 2640 Martin Luther King Jr Way, Berkeley, 510-486-0630.

Down to Italy Live Comedy Whether it Wednesday or the Sunday of empire with group workouts and inspiring games. Sat., July 26, 1:30-3:30 p.m. $15-$20. Rhythmic Comedy Studio, 2812 Shattuck Ave., Alameda, 510-865-5662, Rhythmic.org

Improv Comedy The Springboard troupe is around a half-dozen Bay Area stand-up-ers. Tuesdays, 8:30-10 p.m., free. The Improv, 1577 Franklin St., Oakland, 510-834-1517, OaklandImprov.com.

Mardi Gras Show Burlesque, Bay Area, Weekend re-and musicians. Fridays, 8 p.m. $10. The Marsh Arts Center, 2339 Adeline Street, Berkeley, 510-704-8291, TheMarsh.org

Oakland Cultural Entertainment Comedy performances by Oakland-area and San Francisco-area comedians. Fridays, 8:30-10 p.m., free. The Improv, 1577 Franklin St., Oakland, 510-834-1517, OaklandImprov.com.

Oakland Soul Shoe Cultural Bay Area Weekend re-and musicians. Fridays, 8 p.m. $10. The Marsh Arts Center, 2339 Adeline Street, Berkeley, 510-704-8291, TheMarsh.org

Oakland Cultural Entertainment Comedy performances by Oakland-area and San Francisco-area comedians. Saturdays, 8:30-10 p.m., $15. Englander Sports Pub, 191 Parrott St., San Leandro, 510-357-3871, EnglanderPub.com.

Slow Ah s, Bedding to Bed Show With host Joey Bustos. Mondays, 7:30 p.m., free. The Night Light, 311 Broadway, Oakland, 510-463-8240, thenightlightoakland.com.

Stadium Comedy Anniversary Comedy show featuring Bustelac, Jason Love, Rainbow Music, Ethan Gold, Lily Beth Nelson, and more. Fri., July 25, 7:30 p.m. $15. Pacific Pet Of Museum 1539 Webster St., Alameda, 510-281-1348, PacificPetMuseum.org.

Open Mic Comedy A weekly open mic for both veteran and up-and-coming Bay Area comedians. Sundays, 8 p.m., and other additional. Continental Club, 1555 12th St., Oakland, 510-444-2000, Facebook.com/StandupComedy.

Open Mic - Comedy Night Weekly comedy night. Mondays, 8:30 p.m., by donation. 840 San Pablo Ave., Albany, 510-526-1960, kpfkam.com.

Rare Stories, Rare by If Bay Area newsman Gina Gold presents a comedy comedy series. Fourth Thursday of every month, 7:30 p.m. $10. La Pena Cultural Center, 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-843-3857, LaPena.org.

Standing Comedy Open-mic Comedy night hosted by Bill Pomidor. Thursdays, 8:30-10 p.m. free. Town Club, 2390 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-444-6174, TownClubOakland.com.

Take It Down a Cliffett show with Shard Chavez, Arthur Goldstein, Myra Pineda, Jesse Hart, Papa Johnson, and Rosalia Mesa. Wed., July 30, 8:30-10 p.m. free. 49 Geary Theater, Oakland, 510-452-2900, Marv49.com.

Oakland Flamenco A monthly showcase featuring a monthly cast of world-class flamenco performers and special guest stars. Fourth Sunday of every month, 7 p.m. $15 in advance, $20 at the door, $50 for Row 12 and under. Fruitvale Cultural Works, 2513 Standing Road, Oakland, 510-865-5065, Rhythmic.org.

Carolina Lopez & Carlos Gustavo Ballet Flamenco Lessons, dance performance Sat. July 26, 6:30 p.m., $15-$18. Studio Barre, 1401 Lowell St., Walnut Creek, 925-948-9624, BalletBarre.com

LIVE VARIETY

Bohemian Show by the Reboot Fellas Classic Saturdays dance fit. July 25, 8 p.m. $10. The Uptown, 1928 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-451-3900, UptownNightclub.com.

THEATER & PERFORMING ARTS

Opera and Oakland Examination of the city,portrait, relationship. Oakland performers by Oakland-area and San Francisco-area musicians. Written and performed by Jesse "The Piper" Ferrera. Saturdays, 8:30 p.m. Fridays 8 p.m. Continues through Sept. 13. $15-$30. The Rhoda Arts Center, 2120 Allston Way, Berkeley, 510-704-8291, TheMarsh.org

Brenda Lagunas' Tinkles Every Sky months of an asylum for the Broadway Inmates to inquire into the disappearance of its mysterious mistress from Transylvania Count Dracula, handsome by Gabriel Baron. Thursdays-Saturdays, 8 p.m., Sundays, 2 p.m. Continues through Aug. 17 $15-$28. Berkeley City Club, 2315 Durant Ave., Berkeley. Butterfly by Sun.com.

Sun 1939 Nostalgia Sky Acts Theatre's Theater's annual production for pre-schoolers based on the book by Dean Hubbs. Saturdays, 10:30 a.m. & 2 p.m. Sundays, 10:30 a.m. & 4 p.m. Continues through Aug. 31. $12-$15. Children's Fairyland, 699 Bellevue Ave., (at Lake Merritt), Oakland, 510-452-2259 Fairyland.org.

The Music of Fyotyrsh Music Pianist Hershey Felder brings Chopin to life and revels the composer's musical secrets in his virtuosic July 25-Aug. 10, Berkeley Repertory Theater, 2015 Addison St., Berkeley, 510-647-2949, BerkeleyRep.org.

The Night of the Iguana Performance of the Tennessee Williams play features a group of characters who come together at a shabby hotel on a Mexican jungle. Performed by the San Leandro Players. Thursdays, 7 p.m. Saturdays, 8 p.m. Continues through Aug. 17. $15-$20. San Leandro Memorial Theater, 3200 West Estudillo Ave., San Leandro, 510-577-3491, SanLeandro.org.

Pygmalion Jonathan Moscone directs George Bernard Shaw's play wherein professor of phonetics Henry Higgins attempts with a wager to pass off flower girl Eliza Doolittle as a duchess by teaching her to speak like a proper lady. Tuesdays-Sundays, 8 p.m. Continues through Aug. 24. $36-$51. Cuero Amphitheater, 100 California Shakespeare Theater Way, Orinda.

Rhyme Street Cultural scene tells the story of how young Oakland women raise their themselves in a theatre in San Francisco's Bay Sought Forgotten by science. Presented by the San Francisco Mime Troupe. Sat., July 26, 1:30 p.m. Sun., July 27 1:30 p.m. Live Oak Park, 1301 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley & Berkeley Co.,Va/Content/display.asp?id=1276.

Small Jokes, Hollywood Ball Take Down the Middle New one-man show by Don Reed. Starring Aug. 21 Sundays, 7 p.m., Saturdays 9 p.m. Continues through Sept. 7 $20-$100. The Marsh Arts Center 2120 Allston Way, Berkeley 510-704-8291, TheMarsh.org

Stress the Solomon Musical version of the story of what happens when an unseemly ogre, not a handsome prince shows up to rescue a feisty princess Fridays, Saturdays 8 p.m. Sundays 2 p.m. Continues through Aug. 3. $15. Bankhead Theater 2400 First St., Livermore, 925-373-6800.

Stress the Rational The story of an ogre who goes on a life-changing adventure. By Cultural Tourist and David Lindsay-Abaire directed by Kimberly McNair. Saturdays, 1 & 5 p.m. Sundays, 12 & 5 p.m. Continues through Aug. 3 $17-$60. Julia Morgan Center for the Arts, 2640 Bancroft Ave., Berkeley, 510-848-8742 JuliaMorganCenter.org

South Pacific Set in an island paradise, the musical love stories are threatened by the dangers of prejudice and World War II. Facebook, by the Youth Musical Theater Company Fridays, Saturdays, 7:30 p.m. Sundays, 2 p.m. Continues through July 27. $13-$18. El Cerrito High School, 540 Ashbury St., El Cerrito, 510-526-0934.

Spit Reindeer, Season II Feature with *The Festival and Ashbury Inspire* The fest's production re-recording sat. 3-m series from the 1960s by blending film and live entertainment. Thursdays-Saturdays 8 p.m. Continues through Aug. 9 $10-$25. Lorel's Subterranean Theatre, 1508 Euclid Ave., featuring, 510-444-4488.

Shakespeare Fest: The Comedy Barber of Cupe Street The tale of Sweeney Todd, who sets up a barber shop down in Bankhead Oakland which is the basis for Big's birth partnership for Lagunas with his fellow tenant, Mrs. Lovett. Thursdays-Saturdays, 8:15 p.m. Continues through July 26, $15-$20. Bethany College 40800 Mission Blvd., Fremont, Ohlone Hills.

Lagunas Night Shotgun Players presents a theatre production of Shakespeare's comedy about mistaken identity featuring banjo, guns, mandolins, violin, synthesizer, drums, and harmonica. Wednesdays-Sundays, Scheduled through Aug. 10. $5-$30. Ashby Stage, 1901 Ashby Ave. Berkeley, 510-841-6500, Shotgun Players.org.

Zenaida Brass Off-Broadway musical overhangs the Southern to No with a '50s and some Continues by Resident to Comedy Playhouse's educational program The Imagination Players. Thu. July 24 5:30 & 7 p.m., Fri., July 25, 5:30 & 7 p.m., $15-$25. Julia Morgan Center for the Arts 2640 College Ave. Berkeley, 510-845-8542 JuliaMorgan.org.

DANCE-PENFORMANCE



Hip-hop star and poli ...ather Jimbo "The Piper" Ferrera stars in *Boys and Robbers*.

LECTURES & LIT

LECTURES

Anti-Fracking Benefit Author and artist Dr. Sandra Steingraber will divert blame to dangers of fracking and how to build a Bioregional Quilt. Fri. July 25. 7-9 p.m. $20. First Congregational Church in Berkeley. 2345 Channing Way. Berkeley.

The Ethics of Emotional Health and Intelligence Conference with keynote speech by Ayelet Waldman. Assistant Professor in Department of Neurology at UCSF on developing various games for children ages 8 - 11. Parents Hall. Sat., July 26, 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. $20-$35. United Unitarian Church. 1326 Pacific, 2461 Ridge rd. Berkeley. 510-264-0700.

Mendocal Film reality forum and urban consciousness festival with music, internet, art, and activities building. Sat. July 26. 12-11 p.m. $10-$40. A PLACE For Sustainable Living, 1121 64th St., Oakland. APlaceForSustainableLiving.org.

Economics of Cycling Of Mammal Mountain with bicycling terms, along with Gear from Responsible Seven in Golf and beer from Ever Brewing Co. Fri. July 25, 6-9:30 p.m. $45-$55. Jack London Square, 99 Broadway. Oakland.

Plastic Free July Film and Discussion Screening of the new documentary *Plastic Paradise* with live footage by a marine ecologist, and by Sally Terry Atlantic of Alaska Pen, *Hope Trilogy* and *Pre Plastic Habitat* and *How You Can Join Sat.*, July 26, 7-8 p.m. free. Bioneer Center 2531 San Pablo Ave. Berkeley. 510-540-0220. Geology Center.org.

Ralph Nader The Liberal and political discussion on the book *Unstoppable: The Emerging Left-Right Alliance to Dismantle the Corporate State* by Jeffrey Bolland. Wed. July 30, 7:30-9:30 p.m., $13-$15. First Congregational Church of Berkeley. 2345 Channing Way. Berkeley.

Roadbuilding Blues Session: Brad Blues conversation with Ian Steinman on radio hit is the to Hawaii, about the writers' struggle in Brad, its relationship to the World Cup, and the hottest state of the Minnesota Sat. July 26, 12-3 p.m. free. La Peña Cultural Center. 3105 Shattuck Ave. Berkeley. 510-849-2568. LaPena.org.

Talk and Play Every Record Has a Story tour recent childhood day play Rockwell in the Vinyl gallery and Blume stories from their Minnesota Sat. July 26, 1-2:30 p.m. $9-$15. Free for children under 8 and for members. Oakland Museum of California. 1000 Oak St., Oakland. 510-318-8400. MuseumCA.org.

Apocalypse Now Oakland and Story Events Artists with 2013-2014 Kala Intensive artists. Thu. July 24. 7-8 p.m., free. Kala Art Institute Gallery. 2990 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. 510-841-9702. Kala.org.

Yoga Conclave The author gives a presentation on Hiking the Bay Area including from the Marin Headlands to Point Reyes National Seashore. Thu. July 24. 7-8:30 p.m. free. 1901 Berkeley. 1398 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. 510-527-4141. RT.com.

Who's In Charge Here? Radiotherapist on Work, Alienation, and National Agency Talk by KPFA host and political journalist C.S. Soong. Thu., July 24. 7 p.m. Books, Inventions. 5433 College Ave., Oakland. 510-653-9568. BooksInventions.com.

LITERARY EVENTS

Radio a Welfare Collective Retrospective with Trans-author musicians and workshopping. Thursdays 7-8 p.m. Frank Ferrel Center 1911 Park St. Alameda. 510-523-6957. FamiliesHereToStay.org.

Beyond Lempika, Powell and Books Manager Mike Warnke from the Heart of Filipino Americans book launch festival and contributing authors discuss and read from the book. Sat. July 26, 3:30 p.m. Free. 510-548-2350, wordsbookslibrary.com. www.alamedawarnke.com. Eastside Books of Berkeley. 2066 University Ave. Berkeley. 510-848-2850. AskBerkeley.com.

Corinne Hamlin Book festival open for Roberts Discussed *Her Shipwreck and Return* with an Annals of Berlin on Fri., July 25 5-8 p.m. free. Gentlemens' 415, 418 24th St. Oakland. 510-223-1853. Warehouse416.com

Emily Tinklenberg Memoirs at the death of Emily Tinklenberg led by Brenda Hillman. Thu. July 24. 5-8 p.m. $10. University Press Books. 2430 Bancroft Way. Berkeley. 510-548-0589. UniversityPressBooks.com.

Peter Beck Exchange Live and get free annals of all genres. Saturdays. Sundays, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. free. 510-705-8700. BigAmericanBookExchange.com. Bay Area Free Book Exchange. 10628 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito. 510-705-8700. BigAmericanBookExchange.com

Happy Hour Stories This month's Benin by story and Jam. Tue. July 29. 7:30-9 p.m. free. Pegasus Books Solano. 1855 Solano Ave. Berkeley. 510-525-0888. PegasusBooksStore.com.

Jacqueline Woodson Books from her new novel *The Sum and Management of Me, A Novel of the Civil War.* Jan., July 28, 7:30 p.m. Mrs. Bindweed's. 2904 College Ave. Berkeley. 510-704-8222. MrsBindweeds.com.

The Bella Poetry Cooler Summer Novella Open mic poetry, followed at 10:30 p.m. by dancing. Poetry on the Bus, and more. Thursdays 7:30 p.m. donations accepted. Eastside Cultural Center. 2277 International Blvd. Oakland. 510-533-6029. EastsideCultural.org.

Saturday Night Speculative Each Day Open Mic A monthly open mic hosted by Hollis Handy and James Manly. Last Saturday of every month 7-9 p.m., free. Mighty Lounge. 3216 Adeline St. Berkeley. 510-842-6425. KickstandLounge.com.

Tell It On Sunday Storytelling, solo performances, and live music with a rotating roster of performers. Last Sunday of every month. 7 p.m. $15-$25. The Marsh Arts Center. 2120 Allston Way. Berkeley. 510-704-8001. TheMarsh.org.

Poetry Flash With poetry readings by Tuesday Morgan Thomas, and Tuesday and Hannah Ireland. Thu. July 24. 7:30 p.m. Moe's Books. 2476 Telegraph Ave. Berkeley. 510-849-2087. MoesBooks.com.

Hollis Jake Greenberg Discussion for book, *Just Parenting*. Wed., July 30. 7 p.m., $5-$15 suggested donation. Temple Beth Emeth. 1301 Walnut St., Berkeley. 510-845-6037. BCEmeth.org.

Sapphic Cassandra Discussion and Signing for new book, *Poetics on Fire*. Books on Fire. 1870-2nd St. Fri. July 25. 5 p.m. University Press Books. 2430 Bancroft Way. Berkeley. 510-548-0589. UniversityPressBooks.com.

Uniquely Yours: A Santa Workshop Santa and a Writing Workshop with Author Peggy Simmons leads a workshop for writers of all levels, experience, and genres, ages 18 and up. Free to welcome long term participation encouraged. Fourth Sunday of every month. 7-8:30 p.m. $15-$25. SweetWindow Writers.org. Book Page Sonoma Calendar. 2271 Telegraph Ave. Oakland. 510-238-8271. BPSFiction.com

Writers Queer Press-supported Writers group facilitated by Sue Ann Writer Christine Stoddard. Sat., July 26, 2-4 p.m. $10. Mrs. Bindweed's. Mrs. Aug. 26. 6-8:30 p.m. Harvest Public library 8256 Co., Hayward. 415-793-8485. Hayward.org/444.asp



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Sandmonkey Informational @ Warehouse 416 Sandmonkey Informational is a non-profit educational organization that teaches public speaking and leadership skills through a workshop, informal meeting classes. Tuesdays, 7 p.m. free. Warehouse 416. 2416 24th St. Oakland. 510-893-1073. InternationalToastmasters.com.



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Haiku Rock and Spokenday Sit Thursdays Open mic poetry, followed at 10:30 p.m. by dancing. Poetry on the Bus, and more. Thursdays 7:30 p.m. donations accepted. Eastside Cultural Center. 2277 International Blvd. Oakland. 510-533-6029. EastsideCultural.org.

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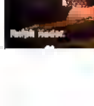
PICKS

Ralph Nader

In 1965, a young Ralph Nader rose to international prominence with his muckraking, bestselling investigation into car safety titled *Unsafe at Any Speed*. In the nearly fifty years since then, he's run for presidential four times, written or co-written 36 books, founded dozens of nonprofit organizations, and found rapping to *Dr. Ali G Show*.

Perhaps fittingly his new book is called *Unstoppable*. Nader will be discussing the book — which covers "the emerging left-right alliance to dismantle the corporate state" — at the First Congregational Church of Berkeley (2345 Channing Way) this week on conversation with historian Barry Lee Rellen (obviously) likely to sell out, so get your tickets now — *Ellen Cushing*

Wednesday, July 30, 7:30 p.m. $13-$15. KPFA.org



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The fennel and onion pedals are a show-stopping piece of fried decadence

Chris Duffey

A UNITED NATIONS OF BEER BITES

At The Dock at Linden Street, James Syhabout's latest restaurant, everything tastes great with beer

By Luke Tsai

Of all the ways you can tell the story of Oakland's recent restaurant boom, this is my favorite: James Syhabout, a West Oakland native who spent his formative years hanging out at his mother's Thai hole-in-the-wall in uptown (before it became Uptown), traveled the globe and cooked at some of the world's finest restaurants — El Bulli in Spain, The Fat Duck in Great Britain, and Manresa in Los Gatos. But when it came time to open his own place, Syhabout didn't think twice. He came home.

These days, Syhabout jaunts — spread across The Town, in Piedmont, Rockridge, and Uptown (where he opened Hawker Fare, in his mom's old spot) — are more of the most highly regarded restaurants in Oakland. His newest project, The Dock at Linden Street, is located in a stretch of West Oakland that Syhabout calls the "new frontier." It's a part of the city that has few restaurants and retail businesses — mostly just warehouses, railroad tracks, and, off in the distance, the port.

Located in a former loading dock adjacent to the Linden Street Brewery (whose owner Adam Lamoreaux, is Syhabout's partner in the venture) that, happily has a sizable parking lot, The Dock at Linden Street is split into two parts. The first, the Beer Shed, is more or less a literal shed, with communal high-top tables and a limited snack menu for people who want something to munch on with their beer. The restaurant portion, The Dock, is set in a rustic and warehouse-y space, high-ceilinged and rough around the edges.

Syhabout said he drew inspiration from the nearby port, where shipping containers move in from as far away as Peru, Japan, and Australia. All of these countries have their own distinctive beer culture, Syhabout reasoned. And so the menu at The Dock functions as a kind of United Nations of beer bites, with influences that run the gamut from Korea to Scandinavia to a Midwestern country fair. As long as a dish tasted good with beer and as long as Syhabout could give it a distinctive twist, anything was fair game.

Not locked down by the constraints of any particular genre or culture, Syhabout and chef de cuisine Raden Brenner are free to mix and match different culinary traditions — often to delicious effect. Most of the portions-to-share menu items fall in the $10-$15 range, and many can be eaten with your hands. The food isn't as refined as what Syhabout serves at Commis, as boldly authentic as the Southeast Asian street food at Hawker Fare, or as luxuriously rich as the fat-drenched meat dishes at Rose and Rolls. But for pure fun and an off-the-chart deliciousness-to-price ratio, The Dock might just be my favorite Syhabout restaurant yet.

Take the fried fennel and onion petals, a showstopping piece of fried decadence that combines the pleasures of a Blooming Onion with those offered by the dainty caviar bumps you might get at a fancy cocktail party. The beer-battered mum "petals" get dredged in rye flour and, after frying, are dusted with caraway salt, to approximate the flavor of pumpernickel. A dill sour cream dip studded with trout roe provided a refreshing, briny counterpoint, and was a subtle nod to Scandinavia.

Linguine corn dogs further prove that Syhabout mixes "high" and "low" cuisines as well as just about any other chef in the game. Each hushpuppy-sized ball had a juicy segment of the Portuguese sausage. On the side were two dipping sauces — a whole-grain honey mustard and a delicious lime-spiked sriracha — and a pile of the kind of pickled jalapeños and carrots served at taco trucks. Where else are you going to find a $10 plate of food that cohesively blends Portugal, Fruitvale, and the American heartland?

Another highlight — a brilliant fish-sauce-and-lime-spiked kohlrabi and hearts of palm salad — pointed to Syhabout's Thai heritage. The fried pasta were crescent-shaped shells of fresh hearts of palm and fried pig ears, which offered a satisfying crunch.

Perhaps the most whimsical item on the menu is something called a "falafel waffle," — chickpea falafel batter cooked in a waffle iron rather than a deep fryer. The was more brilliant in concept than execution, though. I loved the nuttiness of the waffle itself, but found the accompanying lamb like lamb sausage too dry.

A handful of more straightforward dishes were no less impressive. Off the Plancha was exactly the kind of grilled shrimp dish you might find at a cozy tapas bar in Spain — simply seasoned, impeccably fresh head-on Gulf shrimp served with an addictive Romesco sauce that was thickened with not-quite-ground almonds and infused with the heady umami funk of anchovies. And a bowl of Korean-inspired steamed clams, studded with thick bacon lardons and fresh kimchi, came in an insanely delicious shoyu broth. Spooned over white rice, this was comfort food at its finest.

There were a few mild disappointments, however. "Caesar" popcorn (tossed with lemon, anchovy, and grana cheese to approximate the flavors of the salad) had a puzzy brightness I loved, but the kernels were stale and under-popped. And the bottarga-dusted potato wedges, fried until their insides were fluffy like steak fries, were way too salty.

While the rotating beer list, curated by Lamoreaux and Beer Shed manager Ray Thompson of The Trappist, isn't as wide-ranging as, say, Hog's Apothecary's, it was loaded with food-friendly taps and had enough variety to keep our interest.

Given the restaurant's globe-trotting ambitions, we were surprised to find that the dessert list was as American as apple pie — or strawberry-hibiscus pie with house-made "Kool Whip," anyway. But there aren't many finer ways to end an evening than to share a slice of that pie, or one of pastry chef Andrea Johnson's excellent soft-serve sundaes — maybe out on The Dock's outdoor patio where, as Syhabout likes to say, you can enjoy one of the nicest sunset views in Oakland. ●

Luke Tsai@EastBayExpress.com

The Dock at Linden Street

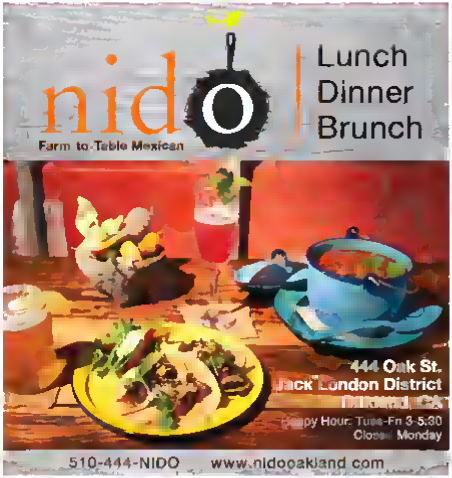
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Reservations not accepted
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Sample Menu

Kohlrabi Hearts of Palm Salad $10
Fried Fennel and Onion Petals $10
Steamed Clams with Rice $17
Linguica Corn Dogs $10
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BISTRO EXTRAORDINAIRE

The best pop-up of the year thus far. Plus: Shattuck Down Low's owner is opening a new bar.

By Luke Tsai

The best pop-up I've been to this year was in the back of a wine shop, in which a trucker-hat-wearing dude set me up with a glass of righteous Syrah, and I feasted on lamb cooked two ways — in good as any fine-dining lamb I've eaten lately, except it was cooked on a makeshift suburban-burner setup and only set me back $16.

That's Bistro Ordinaire in a nutshell. Chris Kroenert's twice-a-week French bistro has popped up at the Oakland wine shop/wine bar Ordinaire (3354 Grand Ave.) nearly every Thursday and Friday night for the past five months. Like all great pop-ups, Bistro Ordinaire has a rollicking, off-the-cuff feel — more like you're hanging out at a particularly festive Summer party than like at a formal restaurant. The night I swung by, I placed my order at the bar and walked up a flight of steps to the upstairs mezzanine, where there was a big communal table and handful of two-tops — all cobbled-together furniture that looked like castoffs from a local elementary school. Old chandeliers and a veritable fire hazard's worth of votive candles provided a touch of romance.

What I loved was the casual vibe and how mixed the crowd was — tech start-up types, middle-aged oenophiles, attractive young couples on dates. (A quick shout-out to Ordinaire owner Reinhard Taylor, who's doing God's work in helping dispense with the notion that wine shops are all stuffy, intimidating places frequented only by the rich.)

There days, Kroenert is best known as a burger guy — his forthcoming burger-focused Oakland restaurant, KrounerBurger, is slated to open on Piedmont Avenue in the old J's Mexican and Asian-ish Food spot sometime this fall. But the menu at Bistro Ordinaire is closer to what Kroenert cooked at San Francisco's Bar Tartine — riffs on the kind of simple food you'd find at a little Parisian bistro.

The main entrée was a hunk of lamb shoulder, slow-roasted until it was lush and decadent, and lamb ribs that had been thinly sous-vided (like a pork belly) and quickly seared in a pan. Also on the plate: juicy butter-braised French Breakfast radishes, roasted eggplant purée, and cured olives that added a nice briny note. Dessert was a tender nectarine almond cake any French bistro would be proud to serve.

Since he first launched KrounerBurger a year and a half ago first at the Mission during nighttrain Rumsey), Kroenert has been a permanent pop-up mode, and he's pretty much mastered the genre at this point. He's doing all of this on two induction burners and a small tabletop oven, with on one helping him in the kitchen and just a few Ordinaire employees to function as all-purpose runners/bussers/cashiers, so it's exciting to think about the food he'll be able to put out once he has a wood hearth and a full kitchen staff.



Bistro Ordinaire's succulent lamb shoulder Luke Tsai

Pop-ups, by their nature, are ephemeral, but Bistro Ordinaire should continue through the end of August. The good news is that Kroenert plans to serve many of the dishes that he's been testing out once his restaurant opens.

"It's not just a fucking hamburger stand," Kroenert said. "Although it is also a hamburger stand. But there's a lot more depth than that."

Rooftop Drinking

Downtown Oakland's influx of shiny new watering holes continues apace with the arrival of Old Major's (135 12th St.), a massive, 6,000-square-foot bar that's coming to the old Oasis Restaurant and Bar space. Co-owners (and brothers) Daniel and Benjamin Cukierman have gutted the building and have ambitious construction plans that include the installation of nine-foot high sliding glass doors and a rooftop deck. The bar is tentatively slated to open in late November.

Two years ago Daniel Cukierman's dance club, the Shattuck Down Low, was unceremoniously booted from its downtown Berkeley digs. Fans of the Down Low have long wanted for news of where the venue might pop up next but Cukierman stressed that this will be a completely separate business. There might be a DJ on hand occasionally to spin some tunes, but Old Major's won't be a club. There won't be any dance floor. Instead, this will be your standard beer-and-cocktail bar with about forty brews on tap and a full selection of cocktails.

But the project is ambitious in its own right. The brothers plan to erect a new single-story building that will be surrounded by sliding-glass doors and topped with the aforementioned rooftop deck — a 2,000-square-foot area for bar patrons to mingle under the stars.

The name, Old Major's, is an allusion to the revolution-minded pig from *Animal Farm*. Cukierman, who is also a co-owner of the Grand Awesome spot Room 389, said he wanted a name that would go with the rustic faux theme that will inform the bar's decor (e.g., lots of reclaimed barn wood). But he also liked that the name was "a little heavy."

"I want [the bar] to be a place where people can come together, have a few beers, philosophize, and talk about stuff," Cukierman explained. ●

This column is culled from our blog of the same name.

Luke.Tsai@EastBayExpress.com

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RESTAURANTS & CAFES

Brewpubs

American Oak

2329 Santa Clara Ave., Alameda, 510-521-5800, AmericanOakAlameda.com. At American Oak, an unobtrusive whiskey bar on one of the Park Street antique's quarter blocks, Chef Gabe Cortez serves up casserole's and sloppy burgers and sweet beef pizzas—fun, approachable gastropub fare that matches, and often outshines, its acclaimed counterparts in Oakland and across the bay. The menu, which changes each month, is a mix of updated American comfort food and French bistro fare. Stick to the items cooked in the 900-degree wood-burning oven and you can't go wrong. beautifully blistered pizzas and roasted chicken with super-crisp skin and uniformly juicy meat. Contributing to the restaurant's small-town charm, items from nearby vendors like Feel Good Bakery and Tucker's Ice Cream are featured prominently. $$ $$$

Barclay's

5940 College Ave., Oakland, 510-654-1662, BarclaysPub.com. Located in Oakland's Rockridge neighborhood, Barclay's is popular for its extensive food menu and thirty beers on tap. Its outdoor patio is pet friendly and often crowded on warm evenings. Inside, darts and TVs keep drinkers occupied. $-$$

Brotzeit Lokal

1000 Embarcadero, Oakland, 510-645-1265, BrotzeitBiergarten.com. Located in the Oakland estuary Brotzeit Lokal is a view restaurant without the usual trappings of a view restaurant. Modeled after Germany's biergartens, it features casual food (most notably sausages) and about eighteen different beers on tap, split between German beers and local American brews, with a couple of Belgians mixed in for good measure.

Hidden away on the edge of the Oakland Estuary, Brotzeit Lokal is a rare find: a view restaurant without the usual trappings of a view restaurant. There are no fancy linens or waiter hoisting trayes, but there also isn't a hard seat in the house, and chef Lev Delanyi's traditional German beer-hall fare is much better than it needs to be. By far the most popular menu item are the house-made sausages, which range from good to very good. The well-spiced jalapeño chicken sausage and the remarkably juicy bockwurst are especially tasty, especially paired with a crisp Alte Schlag, curtsy is brewed by Linden Street Brewery. Reactive eaters won't want to miss the Ribbon, a whole, massive pork rib that's brined, braised until tender and then cooked like a ham. It's enough food for four hungry people, and the closest thing you'll find to Christmas dinner all year long. $$

Cato's Ale House

3891 Piedmont Ave. Oakland, 510-655-3339, CatosAleHouse.com. Cato's live music from its Bay Area bands every Sunday from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. and Wednesdays 7 to 9 p.m. Expect to hear jazz, world grooves, blues and roots music from local ensembles and never a cover. Cato's is open for lunch and dinner and has free wireless. Test your wits at trivia every Monday at noon for karaoke every first and third Saturday. The beer selection is impressive. There are also wine options, but no liquor is served. The menu includes pizza as well fare, and the kitchen is open until 10 or 11 depending on the day. $$

Couyon Cajun & Po'boys

3909 Martin Luther King Jr Way Oakland, 510-808-7262 EtsMileHigh.com/CouyonCajun As long as you're nitsy with bare-bones amenities, loud music, and the presence of a rough-looking character or two, Couyon Cajun & Po'boys, the restaurant inside the junk rock den Ets Mile High Club, is worth checking out. Yes, it's a dive bar... a strictly cantal, cash-only operation. But chefs David Kloehk and Leonie Marion make nearly everything the sauces, the cured meats, and the soup stocks — from scratch. The sue gumbeaux are po'boys like the Crispy Kitty an excellent version of a traditional New Orleans-style fried catfish sandwich. But it's the appetizers and sides that will keep us coming back, pulled pork-topped mac & cheese, shoe-tee-like corn maque choux, and Cajun-style fried pork belly "cracklins." All bar food ought to be like this nothing frozen, nothing served in a mason jar, always everything priced at less than $10 — but everything tasty and made with care. $-$$

Dan Sung Sa

2775 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-663-5527, Dan Sung Sa, aka "Porno Palace," is the most well known and maybe the most classic Korean pub (or norabang) in Oakland. No porn is involved — the restaurant is actually named after a soft movie theater in Seoul because the (non pornographic) movie posters plastered everywhere. You can, however, order "Porno Fries," a fusion-y riff on chili cheese fries topped with spicy pork. The menu is heavy on street snacks, but you can also order the same dishes you'd find at more formal Korean restaurants: barbecued meats, tofu stews, and such. Among the several different kinds of fried chicken available, is the whole-chicken option (a Cornish game hen) has awesomely crispy skin. Finally, if — and only if — you're feeling flamy, try the chrysalis soup, a spicy beef chock-full of maybe a hundred crunchy, peanut-size silkworm pupae. $$

Elevation 66 Brewing Company

1008 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito, 510-595-3800, Elevation66.com. This nano-table, twelve tap family-friendly brewpub offers a pleated takes on American standards as well as a full slate of beers, both brewed in-house and elsewhere. Can a small, family friendly bar in the burbs — whose chef's background is Italian cooking — pull off a beer program that enamorates the globe taking detours to Hawaii, Korea, Peru, Argentina, and Germany? The answer: it turns out, is yes. The gastropub grub at Elevation 66 is unskillfully prepared as this eclectic, make-the-food-a-big draw alongside the brewery's impressive selection of craft beers. The menu changes every couple of months, but highlights from our visits included exceptionally juicy Kalua pork tacos (from Hawaii), house-made sausage served over sauty, flavored spätzle and sauerkraut (Germany) and a sloppy beef burger whose only "ethnic" component was a mustardy curry aioli — the best of that burger's A-plus building blocks. Needless to say, everything on the menu goes well with a cold beer. $$-$$$

The Forge

66 Franklin St., Oakland, 510-268-3200, TheForgeBar.com, At Jack London Square pizzeria The Forge, the pastas are more or less Napoletan, but the rest of the menu is unapologetically American, no pastas, no salumi samplers, no plates of marinated olives. Instead, the kitchen puts out Caesar up rolls on things like mozzarella sticks and buffalo wings, and the bar has eleven West Coast microbrews on tap. It's a simple but brilliant concept — a strictly American pizza restaurant. The pizzas are notable for their well-conceived combinations and flavorful, pre-chewy-enough crust (based on a Tartine bakery bread recipe). You can't go wrong with a classic Margherita. But the real fun at the restaurant lies in appetizers like smoked chicken wings, fried cheese curds (served with a long simmered marinara sauce), and "potato skins" — tasty twice-baked potatoes that set atop a pool of Taleggio cheese "wine." $$-$$$

Freehouse

2700 Bancroft Way Berkeley 510-647-2300, BerkeleyFreehouse.com. After Daryl Kane shut down struggling-yet-beloved

RECENTLY REVIEWED

Los Cilantros

3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-849-2598, LosCilantros.SF.com. Tucked inside La Peña Cultural Center, Los Cilantros is a labor of love for chef-owner Dilsa Lugo, a native of Cuernavaca, the capital of the Mexican state of Morelos. Lugo runs Niman Ranch meats and Marys free-range chicken and gets most of her produce from local farms, but doesn't toot her horn about that. Let us do the more, and the prices aren't exorbitant. Breakfast, served until 2 p.m. daily ranks highly on the list of the restaurant's virtues, especially the *memelasses* regional specialties, such as the quesadillas *estilo Tres Marias*: fried, cheese-filled tortilla pockets served with *queso fresco*, sour cream, and roasted-tomatillo salsa. Highlights among the restaurant's selection of lagunera standards include *enchilladas barbacoa* — beef chuck roast wrapped in banana leaves and slow-roasted until the wall spaced meat has a lush fattiness and a nicely charred crust — and spicy, smoky chicken *tinga*. $-$$

Portal

1611 2nd Ave., Oakland, 510-663-7078, PortalOakland.com. Vegan-centric small plates, mezcalbrews, and gorgeous lake views rule at this new beer garden and restaurant, located along the northeast side of Lake Merritt. The best thing about Portal, a vegan-centric restaurant and beer garden a stone's throw from Oakland's Lake Merritt, is its casual air — hour the lovely back patio evokes lazy summer evenings spent hanging out on a friend's backyard deck, burning cold beers and snacking on plates of nine-bites. On busy nights the service can be spotty, and the portion sizes don't always offer the best bang for your buck. But, aside from the setting, Portal's chief virtue is the wholesomeness of its locally sourced and (mostly) organic, vegetable-heavy pub grub — a welcome change for vegetarians tired of going to bars where the only thing they can eat is (maybe) the fries. Standouts include the house-made fresh pasta and the "garbage bread" (a cheesy-doughy riff on stromboli) both of which vary depending on what's in season. $$-$$$

Oriental B.B.Q. Chicken Town

1011 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-595-5330. Though Oil Town (as regulars call this popular Korean grill) looks a lot like a tiki bar inside — paper tables, paper lanterns, an indoor "roof" — you'll find nary a Mai Tai on the menu. Instead, occasionally oversize plastic bottles of Korean beer and fruity non-cocktails are the drinks of choice. As for food, it's no surprise that chicken is the star — thirteen different versions, including several takes on the uber-crispy double fried chicken that Koreatown are famous for. For maximal crunch, order the standard batter-fried chicken, for a sweeter experience, go for the deliciously goopy soy-and garlic marinated. Can-fang. Other crowd pleasers include extremely garlicky garlic fries and ramen dishes, both of which, a street dish that consists of rice cake sticks, instant ramen, fish triangles, and a hard-boiled egg — all seasoned in a bright red sweet-and-spicy sauce. $$





FOOD & WINE

CULINARY & WINE

Backyard Barbecue Contest with beloved foods extravaganza Sun., July 27 4–7 p.m. Pyramid Ale House, 901 Gilman St., Oakland. 510-528-1900. ThePyramidAle House.com

Italian cooking Tra Vigne Cooking Theater starting with baked ricotta Tue., July 29 7:30 p.m. Tra Vigne Restaurant 1.2.4 2444 St., Oakland.

Cocktail Making Cocktails Learn and to mixologists one to drink, a food lectures, and a dessert cocktail Tue., July 29, 6:30–8:30 p.m. $60. Absinthe 1424 Harrison, Way St., Downtown

Everyday Homemaking Book premiere Party Celebration of K. Ruby Blume's book with pull-out recipes and homemaking demonstrations Thu., July 24, 7–8 p.m. free Ecology Center, 2530 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. 510-548-2220, EcologyCenter.org

Exceptional Wine Biology A 36-week wine brewing with all proceeds benefiting food schools. Thursdays, 5–7 p.m. Saturdays, 2–5 p.m., opened 6–7:30 p.m. $1 per night. Richmond Cookware & Wines, 5818 La Salle Ave., Oakland. 510-654-9463, FermentedPleasuresandWines.com

Hot Market, Food Market, Featuring food trucks, farm, herb, and fruits vendors — featuring produce a Bite Peter's Kettle Corn, Montecito Mexican (Kahlua Pig), Kau Kau Hawaiian-Filipino comfort special and Sedan's Chaat truck opened and dog treats. Saturdays, 10 a.m.–4 p.m. free. College of Alameda 555 Market Ave. Parking $10 $2-2-7201, mapwood Parking.edu

Produce Taste Initiative Meets the market and tests the tastes for new local. Fri., July 25, 4 p.m. Ohlone 5658 Bolinger Ave., Oakland. 510-547-5356, Ohlone.com, and Jones Pizza La Pizza specialty Portobello cuisine and street. Fri., July 25 5:11 p.m. $6 La Pena Cultural Center, 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-2568 LaPena.org

Off the Grid With food trucks, drinks for sale, music kids' activities, and half-price discounts also locals Fridays, 5–8 p.m. free. (Pelham Museum of California, 1000 Oak St., Berkeley. 510-318-8400 MuseumCA.org

Plentiful Free Potluck Celebration During the third graduated in the Plentiful Free July parties, parties, and potluck Both Berry will host a meals-free flowers. Sun. July 27 1–3 p.m., 65-810, Ecology Center 2530 San Pablo Ave., monthly 510-548-2220, EcologyCenter.org

Slow Art Awareness Farmers-food free produce-based training Go Slowtary Tue. at Four Tea Sweets, Gayle Sweeteria, Nancy's Hotel and food, Nello Bagger, Oakland, Berkeley, and more. Plus, Pedi-Running, live music, and movies at four fridays 6:30–8:30 p.m. Continues through Oct. 31. Studio and Art Center, 2367 45th St., Oakland, 510-517-5027, StudioGoodsCenter.net.

Trucks and Trends Northern Valley's premier food and wine affair with taste pairings, cooking demonstrations, music Americana, vineyard tours, and more. Cloud Sonoma, org for more information. Thu., July 24,

5:8 p.m.–Fri. July 25, 11:30 a.m.–8 p.m. Sat., July 26, 11 a.m.–3:30 p.m.; Sun., July 27, 11 a.m.–3:30 p.m., $45-$125. Dana Real, 410 Vineyard Ave. Pleasanton, 510-971-6000 CasaReal-inn.org

Vintage Harbor Wines Tasting Try five wines for $5 at both the West St. and Delaney Ave. stores. Check Facebook page earlier in the July for details on each location like the pourer that day. Tuesdays, 5–7 p.m., Berkeley monthly 2113 Vine St., Berkeley 510-845-8630

FARMERS MARKETS

Alameda Farmers' Market, With locally grown fruits and vegetables, plus, beauty artisans. Tuesdays, 3 p.m.–6 p.m., Saturdays, 9 a.m.–1 p.m. free, PCFMA.com, Alameda Farmers Market, Height Ave. at Webster St., Alameda

Ohlone Farm Fresh Market Community Produce Stand Farm Fresh Market sells produce together at limited-season neighborhoods. Tuesdays 2:30–6:30 p.m., free 510-548-1704, EcologyCenter.org, Bay Area Coupon program for Supplemental, 1713 Eighth St., Berkeley 510-525-1468, BAFMAnet.com

Ecology Center Farmers' Market, Fresh produce supplied by local farmers, and specialty farmers. Saturdays, 9 a.m.–1 p.m. free, Ecology Center, 2530 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley 510-548-2220, EcologyCenter.org

Fruitvale Farmers' Market With affordable produce from Fairmont's African American and local urban farmers, as well as baked goods from local bakeries. Saturdays, 10 a.m.–2 p.m. Telegraph Ministry Center 5305 Telegraph Ave. (Fruitvale) 510-268-2467, www.telegraph-ministry.org

Fruitvale Farmers' Market, With locally grown and produced fruit, vegetables, bread produced and more, monthly WIC and EBT. Sundays, 10 a.m.–3 p.m. free, 510-535-6925, Fruitvale BART Station 3401 East 12th St., Oakland

Ghirardelli Farmers Market This weekly market hosts more than 70 produce, prepared food, and arts and crafts vendors. Saturdays, 9 a.m.–2 p.m. free, 800-897-3276, SaleaMarket.org/farmersmarket, 1999 Ghirardelli Park Area, Grand Ave. and Lake Park Ave., Oakland 510-238-7276 www2.oakcanalnet.com/Government/City-Departments/Parks/index.html

Hayward City Hall Farmers Market, A farmers' market featuring locally grown and produced foods from more 35 farmers, and specialty food purveyors. Saturdays, 9 a.m.–1 p.m. free, 510-537-3570, AgricultureInstitute.org, Hayward City Hall, 777 B St., Hayward 510-581-4800, CHayward.Ca.Us

Harbor Farmers Market Hayward produce farmers With vendors selling locally grown California produce at the main entrance to the hospital Wednesdays, 10 a.m.–2 p.m. free, PCFMA.com, Kaiser Hayward, 27400 Hesperian Blvd., Hayward.

Harbor Farmers Market Oakland Farmers' Market, With vendors selling fresh, all-organic fruits and vegetables. Fridays, 10 a.m.–2 p.m. free, PCFMA.com, Kaiser Oakland, 280 Hawthorne Ave., Oakland. 510-752-1000, Kaiserpermanente.org/oakland

Kensington Farmers' Market, With a nursery, food vendors, an organic cheesemaker and flowers, fruits and fish, fruits and vegetables, nuts, market foods flowers, fresh pasta, and seasonal surprises. The market and crafts live music free entertainment. Sundays, 10 a.m.–2 p.m., and, 510-847-8901, KensingtonFarmersMarket.org, vendors, crafts at the Italian Club, Kensington.

Montclair Village Farmers' Market, Featuring organic produce and prepared foods Free parking a Shuttle is across at the top at La Salle Avenue. Sundays, 9 a.m.–2 p.m., free, MontclairVillage.com/farmers-market.html Crocker Highlands Village LaSalle and Mosher Ave., Oakland.

North Berkeley Farmers' Market, With market specialty foods, seasonal produce and more for sale, along with special programs and events. WIC and EBT participants. Tuesdays, 3–7 p.m. free, 510-548-3333 EcologyCenter.org, Intel and Rose at Sacramento St., Berkeley

Jewel Children's Hospital Farmers Market CHP and WIC days. Tuesdays, 2–7 p.m. free, 510-250-7957, FreshBasketProduce.org, Children's Hospital & Research Center Oakland, 747 52nd St., Oakland.

North Oakland Antioch and Laurel Farmers' Market Featuring seasonal organic produce from Bay Area farms and fine market goods. Saturdays 10 a.m.–3 p.m. free, FarmBoundProduce.org, Fruit Bowl, Smallcity Farmers Market, 4715 market St., Oakland

Oakland Farmers Market Features seasonal produce market oils and taste organic foods along with lovely of Oakland, Fridays, 8 a.m.–2 p.m. free, oaklandfarmers Farmers Market 3400 Lakeside Drive, Oakland, 510-238-3444, UrbanVillageOnline.com/markets/oakfarmers.html

Specialty produce Stand With fresh, organic fruits and vegetables, BBT cards, an and an craft and Fridays, 10 a.m.–2 p.m. Thursdays, 3–6 p.m. Hayward Rod Shop Office, 24100 produce St., Hayward.

Pacific Coast Jack Market, Growers, Farmers' Market, With seasonal produce, grocery nuts, locally baked items specialty cut flowers, specialty dishes, and more. Tuesdays, 9 a.m. and and crafts 3p.m. Sundays, 9 a.m.–2 p.m.) free, PCFMA.com, Scott Linden Square, produce and bread St., Oakland.

Richmond Farmers' Market, With fresh, locally grown fruit, live cookout flowers, eggs, a nut whole produce WIC and SNAP summer. Thursdays, 3 p.m.–7 p.m. free, RichmondFarmersMarket.org, Richmond Farmers Market, 24th St. and Barker Ave., Richmond

Solano Berkeley Farmers' Farmers With items and organic produce baked, specialty foods and more for sale, plus special programs and market Saturdays 10 a.m.–2 p.m. free, 510-548-3333 EcologyCenter.org, Martin Luther King Jr. Civic Center Park, 2151 Martin Luther King Jr. Way monthly 510-981-6161, CI.Berkeley.ca.us.

South Berkeley Farmers' Market, With farm produce and other food for sale. Tuesdays, 2–6:30 p.m. South monthly Ecology Market, Adeline and 63rd also specialty 510-548-3333, EcologyCenter.org.

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Our New Home!

PICK

Everyday Cheesemaking

To celebrate the release of her new book, *Everyday Cheesemaking: How to Succeed Making Dairy & Nut Cheese at Home*, urban homesteading guru K. Ruby Blume is hosting a bash at the Berkeley Ecology Center (2530 San Pablo Ave.). Watch as Blume milks a goat and demonstrates how to make whole-milk ricotta, and then taste the final product, all within the span of an hour — it should be about as fresh a cheese as



you'll ever enjoy. Blume will also have a variety of homemade cheeses — including cheese, camembola, cashew-cheese tapenade, and eat American cheese — for sampling.

Attendees are encouraged to bring their own homemade cheeses to share. — *Luke Tsai*

Thursday, July 24, 7–9 p.m. Free.

MOVIES

I SPY

Terrorism (*A Most Wanted Man*) and voyeurism (*Sex Tape*) That's entertainment.

By Kelly Vance



The late Philip Seymour Hoffman confers with a secret anti-terrorism team in A Most Wanted Man

When we see the name John le Carré on a film adaptation of one of his estimable spy novels, we expect high-caliber intrigue and all that goes along with it: intricate plot lines, massive dialogue, and sharply etched, unforgettable characters. *A Most Wanted Man*, by our count the ninth le Carré book to be adapted for the big screen, has all those things in it, to a fault.

The "fault" in the usual sense that afflicts most le Carré adaptations. Director Anton Corbijn's movie has a hard time living up to the book. In Hamburg Germany ("the richest city in Europe") circa 2008 a dazed and haggard Russian — or is he Chechen? — fugitive named Issa Karpov (Grigoriy Dobrygin) arrives and gets swift action involving German government anti-terrorist official Günther Bachmann (Philip Seymour Hoffman), international banker Tommy Brue (Willem Dafoe) a family of Turkish Germans who take in the devoutly Muslim Issa and most especially Annabel Richter (Rachel McAdams) a German woman who works for a refugee-aid organization and serves as a go-between for Issa and his nervous haste. No one really knows who Issa is or why he has come to Hamburg, but almost everyone suspects the worst. The blame for that city's involvement in the 9/11 attacks (the chief conspirators coalesced in Hamburg) hangs over the city and the German national security apparatus is still on high alert.

One of the best things about a le Carré story is the construction of multiple levels of distrust, the spying games bread and butter. Fearful, torture-scarred Issa is apprehensive about everything in this strange new country. Bachmann's job is to watch and listen to anyone who may pose a threat — that is anyone at all, especially a bearded Easterner with a consistent golden Quran hanging from a bracelet around his wrist, who demands to see a major banker. The appearance of Issa also triggers the interest of Martha Sullivan (Robin Wright) a US security functionary who speaks in vague, menacing aphorisms. What the movie can only briefly sketch is the deep distrust the Americans have for German intelligence post-9/11, a distrust that motivates the spies-money-Muslims-thugging-phony charities nexus upon which the characters act and react. And when we factor in Dr Faisal Abdullah (Homayoun Ershadi) a businessman with worrying connections in Cyprus, clearly something's gotta give.

To do le Carré's story justice would require a four-hour movie. No one actor in the cast not even Hoffman (in one of the five movies he had in the can before he died earlier this year), leaps out of the ensemble, but viewed together they're truly creepy almost as grim as the ingrown British intelligence ops in *Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy* McAdams and her German accent measure up well in the company of fellow players Nina Hoss and Daniel Brühl, and the Hamburg locations are a treat. *A Most Wanted Man* will hold us until the next le Carré rolls out.

A Most Wanted Man
Directed by Anton Corbijn
With Rachel McAdams and Philip Seymour Hoffman.
Opens Friday

Sex Tape
Directed by Jake Kasdan
With Jason Segel and Cameron Diaz. Now playing.

A suburban husband and wife (Jason Segel and Cameron Diaz) frustrated by their diminished sex life after years of marriage and the distractions of having two young children, get the bright idea to shoot a three-hour video of themselves having sex on the floor of their living room. Then, in one of those accidents that only seem to happen in R-rated bodily function comedies that open during the month of July the video gets uploaded to the internet by mistake and they spend the rest of *Sex Tape* trying to stop the world from seeing it.

Writer-actor Segel plays the role of chief meathead and abrupt hoker Jay. He also wrote the script with Kate Angelo and Nicholas Stoller based on Angelo a story. Segel specializes in affable bewildered, modern males as in *Forgetting Sarah Marshall* and other Judd Apatow-produced projects. We're completely comfortable with the idea of Segel, say celebrating on his sweatsuits or getting mauled by a guard dog. We could say that's his *métier*.

Cameron Diaz, however is another story. She's done gross-out comedy before, and her role as *Sex Tape* a forty-something mom-with-a-difference Annie is her second grumpy go-round with both Segel and director Jake Kasdan — they made *Bad Teacher* together. But we can't shake the feeling she's wasting her time here, compared to her parts in *Gangs of New York* or even *There's Something About Mary*. Her body is in great shape, but she doesn't need to build a character around that. Everyone has to make a living though. At least *Sex Tape* is nowhere near as dopey as *The Counselor* where Diaz dry humps a Ferrari.

There are "honest" comic situations and "dishonest" ones. In Kevin Smith's *Zack and Miri Make a Porno* (good), Seth Rogen and Elizabeth Banks run through a laundry list of hard-R cum-shot laff cues and double takes at essentially the same subject as *Sex Tape*, but from the slacker/indie angle rather than the bored middle-class married perspective. In some respects, Smith's amateur-porno-grapher sitcom is more candid and frank than the Segel/Kasdan film, but they both have the same lumbering ending in which someone essentially proclaims that "all this fucking dosn't mean a thing without true love behind it." So they cop out and betray their ad campaign in the most cynical way possible. Once we get over Jay and Annie's simulated clinches and dirty talk, the title is the most scandalous thing about this basically harmless comedy.

The brightest spot in *Sex Tape* is the plot thread with real life sex-tape-brouhaha figure Rob Lowe playing Hank Rosenbaum, the transparently cloaked kinky CEO of the Piper Toy Company. Hank is on the phone to acquire Annie's blog, "What's Your Mommy?" The movie suddenly wakes up when frantic Jay and Annie drop in on him one evening to try to retrieve the iPad with the offending video on it. Hank's home is positively Dada-esque — the outrageously hideous paintings the costume, the killer dog, Hanks sleazy smirk, etc. Everything goes right back to sleep again after that, despite the cameo mugging of Jack Black as a porno hanger-on and the presence of Rob Corddry and Ellie Kemper as Jay and Annie's best friends, who are just as horny and repressed as their buddies. The material may look "crude" but the concept is sheik as glass. Annie and Jay turn out to be just another wholesome American family after all. Oh well.

Editor@EastBayExpress.com

MOVIES&THEATERS

To learn where a movie is playing, go to EastBayExpress.com or scan the QR code. Capsule reviews are written by Kelly Vance (K.V.). For a schedule of repertory films, see One-Night Stands at the end of the listings. Please send info fourteen days before event date to Zainab.Mohammad@EastBayExpress.com.

OPENING

Mayhem The joys and pitfalls of gaining joy are seen through the eyes of a mild-mannered human (Rose Byrne). Joe Lawlor (Steven Yeun) and his secret. (Lionsgate) (Limited Livermore). (1:86 min.)

Transformers: Age of Extinction The fourth in the live-action series of Michael Bay's "Mandible Clicks" blockbuster franchise is abandoned by buttons and discovers she is pregnant. To open here. Fancy appears in many capacities (Paramount) (Limited Livermore). (1:45 min.)

Hercules Dwayne Johnson, the son of Zeus and a human woman, set through a monster-hire, fighting for gold, sometimes when the rules of Thrace and his daughter with his help in following a couple capture. Rebecca Ferguson and Ian McShane (Paramount) (Limited Livermore). (1:45 min.)

Night Fall Part sci-fi, part monster and most of all a windy engineering drama (Limited Livermore). A molecular biologist (Michael Pitt) hired at work on the study of a long-dead, revolutionary flea button on the human eye, finds time to fall in love with an enigmatic young woman (Ludivine Sagnier) (Limited Livermore). (1:45 min.)

Jersey Boys Clint Eastwood directs the story of the Four Seasons, a band that was big in the 1960s. Christopher Walken plays a mobster who helps the group get started. (Warner Bros.) (Limited Livermore). (1:45 min.)

Land Ho! A pair of senior citizens, former brothers-in-law Mitch Hurwitz (Earl Grey Nelson) and Reed (Houghton) Paul Eschbach) take a spirited vacation to Iceland in the easy-going, world-is-a-bumbled state of life by self-insulated Martha Stephens and Aaron Katz. The odd couple goes on romantic bullies. Is anyone out in the picturesque Icelandic hinterland remains, but Icelandic-related, hilarious misadventures ensue. (Unrepresented) and the (un) Lisa Vogel. Adjust your expectations accordingly, and take in Nelson and Eschbach's subtle, mystery hellraiser. Screenplay by dedicated cinematic Stephens and Katz (95 min.) (K.V.)

Lucy After being kidnapped by thugs who intend to turn her into a drug mule, Lucy (Scarlett Johansson) is replaced with a package containing a powerful chemical. However, the chemical leaks into her system, giving her superhuman abilities. With her former captors in pursuit, Lucy seeks out a neurologist (Morgan Freeman), for help. (90 min.)

Planet of the Apes Ape Caesar (Andy Serkis) saves her fortune Malcolm (Jason Clarke) develops a uneasy symbiotic relationship when he shows he can be trusted. (Paramount) (Limited Livermore). (1:45 min.)

Rio 2 Blu (Jesse Eisenberg) and Jewel (Anne Hathaway) are now parents to three macaws and a human baby. Their adventures in the Amazon rainforest are accompanied by a soundtrack featuring Sia, Jamie Foxx, and Nelly Furtado. (Fox) (Limited Livermore). (1:45 min.)

Sex Tape A suburban husband and wife (Jason Segel and Cameron Diaz) frustrated by their diminished sex life after years of marriage and the distractions of having two young children, get the bright idea to shoot a three-hour video of themselves having sex on the floor of their living room. Then, in one of those accidents that only seem to happen in R-rated bodily function comedies that open during the month of July the video gets uploaded to the internet by mistake and they spend the rest of *Sex Tape* trying to stop the world from seeing it. (K.V.)

Step Up All In Sean (Ryan Guzman) and Andie (Briana Evigan) are back together and ready to dance their way to the top of the competitive dance world. (Lionsgate) (Limited Livermore). (1:45 min.)

Tammy Tammy (Melissa McCarthy) is a down-on-her-luck fast-food worker who has had a bad day. Her husband (Nat Faxon) is cheating on her, she's been fired, and she's just totaled her car. Tammy decides to take off with her alcoholic grandmother (Susan Sarandon) on a road trip. (Warner Bros.) (Limited Livermore). (1:45 min.)

Transformers: Age of Extinction The fourth in the live-action series of Michael Bay's "Mandible Clicks" blockbuster franchise is abandoned by buttons and discovers she is pregnant. To open here. Fancy appears in many capacities (Paramount) (Limited Livermore). (1:45 min.)

Wish I Was Here An existentially comic look inside The American Family Singing Middle-Class Dilation, yields an explosive whatsoever Jewish-American Zach Braff (Garden State) (Limited Livermore). (1:45 min.)

Zach and Miri Make a Porno Seth Rogen and Elizabeth Banks run through a laundry list of hard-R cum-shot laff cues and double takes at essentially the same subject as *Sex Tape*, but from the slacker/indie angle rather than the bored middle-class married perspective. In some respects, Smith's amateur-porno-grapher sitcom is more candid and frank than the Segel/Kasdan film, but they both have the same lumbering ending in which someone essentially proclaims that "all this fucking dosn't mean a thing without true love behind it." So they cop out and betray their ad campaign in the most cynical way possible. Once we get over Jay and Annie's simulated clinches and dirty talk, the title is the most scandalous thing about this basically harmless comedy.

Zombeavers Five college students (Rachel Melvin, Cortney Palm, Jake Weary, Lexi Atkins, and Bryan Bonnell) are trapped in the woods by a pack of zombie beavers. (Warner Bros.) (Limited Livermore). (1:45 min.)

Showtimes Online

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M&T

Rotten Tv has gotten a lot rewrite so it's back on the big screen. Just how much rewritin can you stand? Written by brothers Josh and Adam J. Sherr. Also with Josh Saul and Ashley Greene. Two large popcorns, extra palmettos, please (300 min.) (KV)

ONGOING

Begin Again (Now) wasn't enough. Jason is pushing it. As an writer-director John Carney's hit *ONCE* musical remains three. It just of associated Jason duetters is nabbed by love songs. This time the scene is New York City and those to be mated are Gretta, a fallish singer-songwriter (Keira Knightley) and Dan (Mark Ruffalo), a record-biz music on a downward spiral. Aggravate heartsickness reigns. That Tyrell is the-mainstream and the songs are unremarkable happy ditties. We see our path through it immediately and are unimpressed despite the and offbeat of Hoffman and Knightley. They're stuck in a world of parsley paperbacks and pop-the nothing. Featuring Bobbie Thornfield, Mos Def, Catherine Keener, and real-life pop singer Adam Levine (104 min.). (KF)

Blue Jasmine Dysfunctional sister-in-law Ginger has middle-of-the-road family values despite that in for language. Join with the story of a frustrated LA restaurant chef named Carl (Jon Favreau), who also cheat and cheats), bankrolled by a nasty beat critic (Oliver Platt) and a feisty exes (Sofia Hoffman), and efforts it all to launch a culinary-comeback food truck. The land is in ruin and falling as the reviews of food truck being prepared — Sofia Vergara as Carl's ultra-bitchy ex, John Leguizamo as Carl's culinary sidekick, Scarlett Johansson as the food-truck-hostess Robert Downey Jr. very funky as the ex-ex Bobby Cannavale as a kitchen wisecracker and Kirsty Anthony as Carl's young son who learns the hot while getting some up-close with the spectacle and Cuisinemand as Rosmyou hungry (115 and). (KF)

Rise of the Planet of the Apes Intercranial sequel to the 2011 version of the ancient revenge sci-fi pyrotechnic reboot a few philosophical and moral questions, but mostly settles for routine-looking battles between the soulfully suffering between and the army of angry apes led by hyper-smart chimpanzee Dreyer (Andy Serkis, right). Production values of a high remembered, feeling a remarkable Sam Fervanos and a Mark Duplass role stunt that never was and never will be. Aside from Serkis the action is severely underwhelming, beginning with Jason Clarke and Keri Russell as good rookers and Gary Oldman as the other and. What is planned to be bright stunt that summertory that Jeffs and Amanda Rose and does the first film? Most of a ground to the and Alexi Jason Rose something pas it want to all enough. (Steiner by Matt Reeves (130 min.). (KV)

Sabotage Me Rose this stock interesting than my "cops-and-monsters" movie story are right to be – the dark's not saying Jason Kiki Sima and Edgar Ramirez and to Bowen 8 trailed performances as an FPPD homicide detective and a Apple stock priest, respectively on the trail of gold gangsters in the Bears. Something about psycho toys and and creepy about painters, Horror/Thriller director Ross Tenkhoven (director *The Burgess of Emily Rose*), adapting the realistic title of Bowen police officer Ralph Sandiss, lays on the blood-and-true about nuts and mental ruin, including more Ars Martians tones than in any movie since *The Bears*. Rose of this is enough to make me almost spin around. Screenplay by Tenkhoven and Paul Jason

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MUST

Bobcat Goldthwait: Misery Loves Comedy (118 min.). (K.V.)

Ida Pawlikowski's meticulously-put-upsetting drama (such as on a smallscreen) hits with two screens in 1960s, Communist-ruled Poland: the eighteen-year-old title character, a novice Roman Catholic nun (Agata Kulesza), and her aunt Wanda (Agata Kulesza), a bitter ex-prosecutor and judge-with-blistering revelations for her long-lost niece. The two actresses next a spell with their characters, a quiet ballbuster, on by director Pawel Pawlikowski's ferocious scene-setting in a country with horror known just underneath the gray gloom weather. Shot in black-and-white cinematography by Ireneusz and Ryszard Lenczewski, another with Communist's best-worn eye. A stunned by and made she learns slowly fathoming with believes and autobiogram conflict (80 min.). (K.V.)

Life Itself In the last days of his life, movie critic Roger Ebert commitment to having documentarian Steve James (*Hoop Dreams, The Interrupters*) reinvestigate and his family as they believe back and forth between home and sleeping. The home is an unusually frank look at a dilimmed movie pathetic, as and as a thorough and successful summing-up if the have known film reviewer in America – from Ebert's early newspaper days and Pulitzer Prize to his longtime stint on TV with co-critic Gene Siskel. All along, home in portrayed as a "regular guy" who happened to love and his more than just name anything and to the world. Talking between-James filmmakers Werner Herzog and Martin Scorsese and critic Roseen Corliss (118 min.). (K.V.)

Malefic and Blonde is graphically wondrous re-making of an eighteen Sleeping Beauty known a strong core and Maleficent, the wicked witch of that title (Twenty-played by Angelina Jolie) is subtly a weighted fairy princess on the losing side of a war between the natural, organic world she brought to, and the mechanical, kingdom of her bothersome neighbor, Stefan (Sharlto Copley), with Aurora the sleeping human (Elle Fanning) in the balance. Among the visual splendors of the architecture of Jolie's face is aged as a roaring, constellations of planets and angles. Sarah Bolt and Linning's briefs is up to high Disney standards, with help from Sam Riley and the fairy of Imelda Staunton. Jane Temple, and Lesley Manville. Despite a dilimmed ending (there's an end and we see plainly see that in another of Disney's hero-to-heroine-believes yore, and a twenty one of and believability scenes Strassburg from a screenplay by Linda Woolverton, derived from numerous sources (97 min.). (K.V.)

Dilimmed Child Extremely indie character pastry follows The bedeviling out of a thirty-ish New Yorker believes Lauren (Jenny Slate, a it Bladde Kurtz), whose stand-up comic arises and thrilling successful name life suddenly to take a blank south; the dilimmed pregnancy its weakness by creative Gillian Robespierre and writers Karen Maine, Elizabeth Holm and Anna Bean, the problem is a universal one: What to do with this thing called a life. Thanks to Slate's friendly-ness performance and Robespierre's charmed-down optimistic outlook, we're as Darren's pals all the way. Post-Bill-ly-ish character played by Gaby Hoffmann, Jake Lacy, another Kind, Polly Draper, and Gabe Liedman (85 min.). (K.V.)

Man Tape A dilimmed in believes and wife Simon Segal Stearman Eliot frustrated by lack of sex after years of marriage and two young children, plot the bright idea to make a dilimmed video of on-bedtim having sex on the...long more than Then, in one of those coincidences that only seem to happen at Rotted body-function comedies believes in the town of July, the video gets uploaded to the internet by Blondell, and they must try to stop the down from seeing it. Inside what that is, not. If you saw Bad Teacher watch and stars and and Segel under the dilimmes of Jake Kasdan you've got a pretty good idea already. It ain't, skip it. A late-during sex comedy that doesn't trust to worst traditions, where by Segel, Kate Angelo and Nicholas Hoult (90 min.). (K.V.)

Sidebuilt In the spirit of his 2007 fabulous-drive drama *Away*, filmmaker Phillip Noyce retells the love of two-inhabited believes caught in the arenas of politics, in the believes the shattering role of a New Delhi family whose brother-pack-old son has disappeared. The story has it the guidest appeal of a timeless Hope, as two-hearts's terms recession (Rajesh Talwar) takes a leave from his business of mowing appears to hunt for his son, and lovely love for his son, and encounters who we see lonely call room's indifference. What the screenplay – by smaller Robin Swicord, actor Talwar, and story author Isabella Dorey – could character in many the way various on-location corners made in the dilim lovely of name scenes in Stick Landlords and Maveen. A deadfully "small" film with Blondell resonances (97 min.). (K.V.)

Third Person Yet another smaller Paul Haggis hyperlink drama. The maker of Crash goes nature the Brothers a claim with self-centered folks Liam (another former's bandit), Maria Bello, Olivia Wilde, Adrien Brody, James Franco, Mila Kunis (apparently many as a home boney trap) and and Kunis, who do and up in a character hell of how own making. And of course they're interconnected – aren't we all? Cameron deceiver-maker pile. Written and dilimmed by Haggis, Kasia-ish, famous-extraordinarily for-and-a-half hours (137 min.). (K.V.)

Tammy Ha Ha Thomas, a playwright in the midst of tryouts for his autobiographical new play (Matthew dilimmed), runs about it's Brandy played believes mother Vonda, wondering for the first female side (Shmuhamite Bagher), in thrill-a-minute-and-orphanage adolescence-thin-an-adaptation by smaller Ramon Rahmadi. Rahmadi's co-screenwriter, playwright David Ives, adapted his original stage play from 18th-century novelist Leopold von Sacher-Masoch's *Venus in Furs* and it's filled with time-repeating innuendo and sexual believes (Masoch believes the concept of masochism), as Blondell gradually falls under Vanda's influence while they rehearse the empty allegorical silverware. Nothing wrong with other Amelia's in Seigner's acting, but this play within-the-play seems dated and smaller hollow-y by the second rank of Polanski's often-provocative filmography (96 min.). (K.V.)

Addition Boys of Victor's Past A team of Maxed Garbo-ment Hitmen dilimmed (Wolverine, Brad, another of all) filmmakers back in the Wolverine-ites, nasty in believe the rise of the repressed dilimmed believes and partly to name two well-watching and mysterious believes. So as one see this as a political fantasy about the Nixon days believes and publishes as a normal during the Reagan period-dimmy than proclaimed as a movie in the dilimmed administration – as a leisurely, artsicle-set-it entertainment. Take your pick, name way you wish. The cast in the fore-ensemble be the sort of thing: Hugh Jackman, James McAvoy, Jennifer Lawrence, dilimmed Fassbender, James Stewart, Ira McKellen, Alex Pleyel, Josh Helman, Lihan Paige, and Peter Dinklage. Directed by X-pansion Mutant handler Bryan Singer, base a screenplay by Simon Kinberg, adapted from the story by Jane Goldman, Jennifer Vaughn, and Kinberg. Spectacular (131 min.). (K.V.)

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ONE NIGHT STANDS

THURSDAY, JULY 24

The Philosopher's Stone (111 min., 1997). The Brilliance of Sayajit Ray (Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive, Berkeley, 7:00)

The Hunt (150 min., 2013) Presented by Lincoln Theatre (Lucky Cinema Fremont, 7:00)

They Won't Believe Me (88 min., 1947) (The Magic Lantern, Point Richmond, 7:30)

Irreplaceable You (109 min., 2012) Waterfront Films (Jack London Square Ferry Lawn, Oakland, survivors)

Grasses Art Renaissance (90 min., 2014) Yerba Buena Center Cinemas (45th St. and Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 6:45)

Sonata (102 min., 2008) (UA Berkeley 7, 9:00)

Carnival (91 min., 1998) Redwood Theatres (Rose Parkway Cinemas, Oakland, 8:30)

FRIDAY, JULY 25

A Getaway (85 min., 1958) Kanji Mizoguchi: A Cinema of Tragedy (BAM/PFA, 7:00)

Breakfast at Tiffany's (115 min., 1961) Paramount Outlet Cinemas (Paramount Theatre, Oakland, 6:00)

Nothing with Dinosaurs (87 min., 2013) Movies in the Park 2014 (Cesar and Helgrida Recreation Center, Oakland, 8:30)

Office Space (89 min., 1999) Rude Awakening: American Comedy, 1960-2010 (BAM/PFA, 8:40)

People Hate (117 min., 1994) Kent Book (Parkway, 10:30)

SATURDAY, JULY 26

Jaws in 3-D (85 min., 2014) (The Magic Lantern, 2:00)

Sleeping Beauty (75 min., 2013). Co-presented by the Aggravating Comedy Film Series (Parkway 3:00)

Ships and Nights in the Forest (115 min., 2010). The Brilliance of Satyajit Ray (BAM/PFA, 6:30)

The Last of England (87 min., 1987). Derek Jarman: Visionary (BAM/PFA, 8:40)

SUNDAY, JULY 27

Charulata (111 min., 1971). The Brilliance of Satyajit Ray (BAM/PFA, 3:05)

War Requiem (91 min., 1988). Derek Jarman, Visionary (BAM/PFA, 7:10)

TUESDAY, JULY 29

Films by Amanda Forbis & Wendy Tilby (90 min., 1991-2011). Alternative Visions: Animation (BAM/PFA, 7:00)

Stanfallan (100 min., 1998). Co-presented by the National Poetry Slam and featuring a live poetry performance and a short. The (Parkway 7:00)

Showtimes Online

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WEDNESDAY, JULY 30

Unsettled Lovers: A Story from Shikimachi (102 min., 1954). Kenji Mizoguchi: A Cinema of Tragedy (BAM/PFA, 7:00)

The Inheritance Jane Eyre: The Story of Gender Bandits (105 min., 2014). Rise to Real Film Center (David Brower Center, Berkeley, 7:00)

The Hunter (150 min., 2013) Presented by Lincoln Center (Lucky Cinema Fremont, 7:00)

The Man Who Killed Kennedy: Episode 2: The Cold War (96 min., 1988). (Humanist Hall, Fremont 7:30)

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MUSIC

VOICING COMPUTERS

Keith McMillen Instruments merges physical gestures with the sonic potential of electronics

By Sam Lefebvre

Switched-On Bach outsold every classical album that had come before it. In 1968, composer Wendy Carlos performed Bach pieces on Dr. Robert Moog's early analog synthesizer systems and convinced a skeptical Columbia Records to release the recorded result. *Switched-On Bach* shattered expectations. It reached number one on the pop charts the following year and spawned a glut of imitations. Most importantly though, *Switched-On Bach* exposed a mass audience to an entirely new palette of electronic sounds. Among those radicalized by the recordings was Keith McMillen. "I lusted after control of these sounds," he said. "Being a guitar player at the time they just weren't available." McMillen's guitar wouldn't sound like a Moog, but synthesizers lacked the gestural sensitivity of stringed and acoustic instruments. In essence, the instrument builder's three-decade career has sought to give electronic sounds the expressive physical interface that he cherished in a guitar — and usher in a new musical movement in the process.

At the West Berkeley headquarters of Keith McMillen Instruments, a company founded by its namesake in 2005, about fifteen employees labor to solve the problems posed by *Switched-On Bach*. Programmers rattle computer keyboards in one nook, while soldering irons flicker in two cluttered engineering rooms. Upstairs, there's a tidy space where Matt Hettich, the company's product specialist, demonstrates gear. Like most of the company's employees, Hettich began working at KMI after graduating from the music program at Mills College in Oakland, where he wrote about electronic music performance for his master's thesis. In the dense room, he showed off two of the company's recent devices, QuNeo and QuNexus. They were connected to a computer, modular effects processors, and synthesizers produced by the local companies Dave Smith and Oberheim.

In practice, most musicians use these devices to control MIDI — the digital information produced by computers that constitutes sounds. The QuNeo, which raised eleven times its crowdfunding goal for initial manufacturing in 2012, is the size of an iPad, with raised pads in a variety of shapes. The QuNexus is distinguished from the QuNeo by its shape, which is similar to a keyboard, and its ability to control analog as well as digital sound. Through the company's software, users assign every pad a specific sound. For the QuNeo, users can assign different sounds to the four corners of every pad.

Beneath the device's polyurethane exterior rests Smart Fabric, a malleable textile with integrated digital parts. KMI was the first company to use Smart Fabric for instrument design, and McMillen worked personally with a local manufacturer to refine the material. Used in almost all KMI devices, Smart Fabric provides the sensitivity that McMillen sought in electronic interfaces since first hearing *Switched-On Bach*. Smart Fabric makes KMI devices sensitive to the velocity at which a user strikes each pad, the location within each pad that a user strikes, and the pressure that a user continues to apply after striking. In addition to assigning sounds through KMI software, users can manipulate the parameters of how such physical gestures affect the sounds. Smart Fabric takes live electronic music from an activity akin to typing on a laptop all the way to a physically expressive performance. For instance, the pad's pressure sensitivity can be programmed to shift the pitch of a given note to mimic a guitarist who stretches a string — and much more.

Hettich explained the devices with exacting technical precision, like an engineer speaking to an electronic musician. His delivery was a reflection of KMI's core consumer group: innovative musicians seeking to push their instruments' sonic and expressive limits. Like McMillen himself, many users arrive at KMI gear hoping to defy electronic music's limited response to physical gestures. The guitar iconoclast Adrian Belew uses a QuNeo to manipulate an array of effects kept in what he calls the Magic Closet. Other users include the experimentalist Dan Deacon, members of the Anticon hip-hop collective, and producers working with acts such as Skrillex and The Weeknd. The crew behind hip hop artist Childish Gambino's live show even uses KMI devices to control lighting and visuals. The theme that echoes throughout artist testimonials about KMI devices is relieved frustration. What seemed impossible, their praise goes, actually isn't.

McMillen built his first piece of gear — a guitar amplifier — at the age of ten. "I couldn't afford one," he said. "I was happy to make something that didn't electrocute me and made the guitar louder." Throughout high school, he played in bands and pondered the possibilities of creating an interface for instruments and computers. At the University of Chicago, he took composition courses and earned an engineering degree in acoustics. Attracted to the musical and technological innovation of Bay Area synthesizer luminary Donald Buchla and pioneering institutions like the San Francisco Tape Music Center, McMillen moved to town in 1979.

That year, he founded Zeta Music. The company rose to prominence for producing electric violins and modules to synthesize string sounds. Laurie Anderson, the composer behind 1982's surprise pop hit "O Superman," commissioned an electric violin. In 1992, Zeta made an electric viola at the request of the Kronos Quartet. In 1998, Zeta's electric violin graced the cover of *Playboy* magazine's Sex and Music issue. Zeta enabled string players to amplify their sound and retain the instrument's timbre. It also reversed the process by synthesizing the sound of string instruments electronically. Though the company practically invented



QuNexus and an analog synthesizer — Matt Hettich

and dominated a new instrument market, it didn't quite fulfill McMillen's lifelong goals quite like his work under the KMI banner.

In 2004, McMillen established the nonprofit organization BEAM with the stated goal of fostering a new musical movement called NuRoque. The name referred to the 17th-century emergence of Baroque music, which McMillen considered an important revolutionary period because new technology expanded composers' creative possibilities. McMillen thought that the help of computers in composition — and collaboration — was underexplored. The line of thought created a personifying habit, where components are said to "talk" to one another and "understand" the physical expression of human operators.

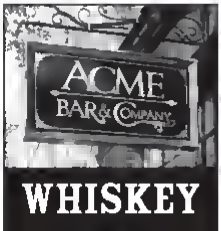
"If you're focused on building tools, it's very different from using them," McMillen said. Under the BEAM banner, McMillen founded Trio Metrik to perform NuRoque. A typical Trio Metrik performance featured McMillen on guitar, an electric violinist, and an electric stand-up bassist, all flanked by monitors. Computers interpreted the string-playing in real time, then provided visual feedback, which the performers used in turn to influence the parameters of their improvisation. The goal was to spontaneously collaborate in tandem with computer systems.

Trio Metrik toured rigorously for two years before McMillen encountered more problems to engineer his way out of. The equipment was too large and too costly; those obstacles pivoted him back to starting his current instrument company. Plus his long-standing dream of being able to control electronic sounds by gesture remained incomplete. NuRoque had to wait.

Keith McMillen Instruments shipped its first product in 2008. Most recently, the company unveiled the StrongArm, a piece of guitar hardware that allows notes to sustain indefinitely. McMillen said that the aid took 35 years to make. McMillen's products solve the problem posed to a young guitarist enraptured by *Switched-On Bach*, and strive to defy the limitations he's encountered since. Still, McMillen predicts that when his inventions allow enough expression, sound, and practicality, he'll stop building. "I basically told myself that once I was done with all of these instruments," he said, "I'd return to making music." ●

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NEWS

DAM THE STREAM

Songza threatens Pandora's gap on the digital streaming market, but does the underlying technology cheapen listener experience?

By Sam Lefebvre

The landing page on Songza.com declared that it was Tuesday afternoon and displayed five options. "Bootstrap Energy," "Brand New Music," "Working to a Beat," "Working (Without Lyrics)," or "Working in an Office." Click through the last option and five more appear — for Old Hits, Current Hits, Country, "Indie Music That's Not Too Weird," and "Easy, Breezy Summer Songs." Clicking the last category again, I arrived at a selection of three playlists and selected one called "Lazy Summer." A vibraphone sample rang out and Sublime's "Doin' Time" began.

Earlier this month, Google bought Songza for a rumored $39 million (Google never disclosed the terms of the deal). In May Apple paid $3 billion for Beats, a high-end headphone company with streaming services on the side. Digital downloads are down, and the tech giants' acquisitions acknowledged consumers' growing preference for online streaming. To market observers, Google's acquisition added to the mounting competition posed to Pandora.com, the Oakland-based company currently dominating the streaming market with more than 75 million users.

When Google elected Songza to combat Pandora, the company wagered on its particular approach to delivering free streaming content. Songza relies on human curators to create playlists, than a few questions guide users toward a set of songs suited to given situations. In contrast, Pandora relies on the Music Genome Project. The system breaks songs into more than 450 musical traits. Elusive qualities — such as emotional intensity — are quantified by analysts on a scale of one to five. Users input a song or artist to begin, and Pandora populates a playlist of similar tracks.

At stake is which service delivers likable songs more consistently. The choice, for consumers and for the investors and VCs whose companies like Pandora depend (the company is not currently profitable) is between the Music Genome Project's meticulous categorization algorithms, and Songza's reliance on human curators. Underlying the comparison, however, are assumptions about how people listen to music and why. Do listeners respond positively or negatively to songs based strictly on identifiable sonic elements? Can a few questions and some data analysis guide a listener toward the perfect playlist? What privacy issues arise?

Music carries different associations for everybody. Some of these are informed by cultural input — what our friends like, what critics recommend — but others reflect memories, as anyone who's painfully reminded of past traumas by particular songs knows. Obviously, neither service accounts for users' personal baggage, but Songza's ethos asserts that it doesn't matter.

In a *Forbes* interview, Songza CEO Elias Roman claimed that musical preference mostly reflects what he calls "context," the where and what of a listener's activities at the moment of listening. People don't usually have time to listen to music for the experience's inherent value, he claimed, so the mission of Songza is "to facilitate or enhance situations — in other words, to make right now better." Roman said. "Music is the means. Lifestyle enhancement is the end."

"Lifestyle enhancement" entails data mining, a feature of the service that likely appealed to Google. To arrive at Sublime's "Doin' Time," I provided at least five data points to the website: day of the week, time of day, location, device type, and climate (Weather.com and Songza are partners). Earlier this year *The New York Times* reported that Pandora's free version has begun following advertisements to individual users based on listening history. It's nearly impossible to avoid giving up personal information online, but Songza's interface unabashedly requires users to provide personal data up front.

Music can certainly enhance experiences, as anyone who returns to the same gym or artist for a certain activity knows, but listeners seek different mood music in the same situations. On a bright and warm Sunday afternoon in a crowded public park, no single playlist accommodates the preferences of separate groups, even if they're all, say, having picnics. Tunes tailored to please everyone in a given situation do exist, though: They're called muzak, or elevator music, and they're designed to be ignored. Taken to its logical conclusion, perhaps Songza's reverence for context would deliver purely unobtrusive instrumentals.

Pandora's counting musicologists and Songza's playlist curators are styled as mechanisms of taste, but musical preference resists prediction and presumption. Listeners do look to individuals for recommendations, but those are specific critics, friends, and record store clerks with whom they have rapport and trust. The richness of musical discovery is largely extracted from those relationships. The depersonalized equivalent touted by streaming services is an inadequate replacement for recommendations by real people.

Nevertheless, Pandora, Songza, Beats, and the market's other major player Spotify are scaled to serve growing throngs of users. As long as the competing companies jockey for pieces of the growing pie, researchers and speculators will continue to neglect how streaming technology struggles to accommodate all of the cultural bias and intuitive emotional responses that compose individual taste.

After all, I hate Sublime. However, Herbie Mann's version of "Summertime," from which "Doin' Time" samples its vibraphone vamp, is quite suited to an afternoon at the office. ●

Sam.Lefebvre@EastBayExpress.com



Songza goes head to head with Pandora

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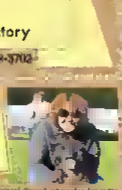
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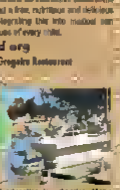


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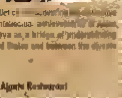
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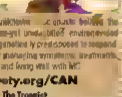
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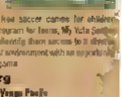
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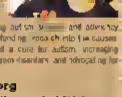
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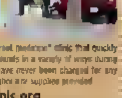


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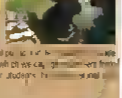


[illegible] was founded as a "street medicine" clinic that quickly [illegible] served countless thousands in a variety of ways during the 40 year history. Fees have never been charged for any services, [illegible] medications and supplies provided.

BerkeleyFreeClinic.org

Citizen Schools



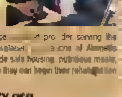


We partner with [illegible] a longer school day, starting with [illegible] the community to teach our students [illegible] personal mastery.

CitizenSchools.org

Operation Dignity





[illegible] and national non-profit [illegible] serving the homeless veterans and military [illegible] of Alameda County. Our goal is to provide safe housing, nutritious meals, and a full array of support so they can begin their rehabilitation [illegible].

OperationDignity.org

This listing is sponsored by Harborside Health Center

East Bay Food Not Bombs





We are [illegible] a group of [illegible] give-a-way our [illegible] and many [illegible] at [illegible] Park in Oakland. We [illegible] with other progressive groups at numerous demonstrations, [illegible] cultural events and gatherings over the years.

EBFNB.org

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FIVE POINT O

Sun-Mon, Jul 27-28

RON CARTER TRIO

feat. Russell Malone & Donald Vega

Tue, Jul 29

LAJAZZO

Wed, Jul 30

SISTERS OF SOUL IV

feat. Jackie Bryant Pat[illegible] Miss Malone, Ruth[illegible]

Thu, Jul 31

TAB BENOIT

Thu, Jul 31 – [illegible] NIGHT SERIES

SYDNEY NYCOLE AND FRIENDS

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LALAH HATHAWAY

Sun, Aug 3

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KIM WILSON BLUES BAND

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CONCERTS & CLUBS

THURSDAY 24

EAST BAY

18 Ages

Keith Sabastia the pianist from Rainbow collaborates with Hank Rotmond, and collaborates guest musicians for an evening of music from various genres, Saul's Restaurant, 1500 Delaware, 6:8 p.m. free

Blues, Folk, & Country

Backbone Blood High Desert Outlaw Ride, 7 p.m. $35

Ben Venable w/ Orbena Shoe, Knight & Schmidt Coffeehouse, 8 p.m., $14, $15

Rio Tio Folks w/ Addie Tigers Spring Mountain Ranch 7 p.m., $8

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Happy Hour Jazz, a rotating line-up of artists, **The Shack** July Classic 7 p.m. free

Jeff Cressen Trio The Grand Room 8 p.m. $15

Jordan Chesney Big Blood w/ Denise Bacon Knight & Schmidt Coffeehouse, 8 p.m. $21, $23

Rob Reyes Blood w/ Armchairs Social Club, Fenix, 8 p.m., $10

Red Rose Speaks jazz with guest Russian singers, The Alley 9 p.m. free

Blood Hayes Legendary of Delicious Dames and Gentlemen 9 p.m., $25

The Second Name Trio Bert Joster Santiago, Zach Brown Trio Mike Daly, Teadrea B p.m., $18

Rock & Pop

Led Free Tribute to Nickelback/Lenkenny Fiddlehead, Tobin Station Plaza, 8:30 p.m. free

Boomerang w/ Hungry Skivy Wyatt, and The Loose Book Club, 9 p.m. TBA

Hank Lawsky w/ The Dirt Family, and The Jerky Picture The Lighthouse Beauty 9 p.m. $7

The Lost Leaders Starry Station, 5:30:00 p.m. free

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

Mustang Soul Night live funk, soul, hip-hop jam, and Latin music, Starry Plough 9 p.m. free

Dan Thomas Veale's Fabulous 5 p.m., $20

Here w/ Kid Carter and **Tom Thomas** The Peter Parish 9 p.m. $22, $25

Pedro Tanks w/ Wyland Starter, Blood Wraith, Session Jethers, Alana Fabulations, Alana The Business and DJ LEXUS, Club Lex's, 9 p.m., $10 $15

Flow Station free hard hip-hop Jethers instant, hip-hop and Station Plaza, musicians, and poets, 1 Farm, 8 p.m., free

World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaeton

7th Street Band w/ Blood Nasty Monkeys and Blood Lung Reprieve 9 p.m. $8, $30

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk, & Country

The Calvin Valley Oakland The Gospel, 7 p.m. $20 $25

Homemade Jams Blood Blood Bosses & Roses, 7:30 p.m. $20

Mystery Session w/ Jaqie Starr, Sheldon Brown Trio Simon Blood & Tree Lark, Hotel Utah, 8 p.m., $8

Gospel & Vocal

Songs in the Key of Stevie Reading/Recreation with Starter Vudu's San Francisco, 6:30 p.m., Herald

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Dueling Stevies w/ Ellie M. vs. Nicki Johnny Foley's Irish House 9:30 p.m. free

Stumpy Blood Tee of Two Mark, 7:30-11:30 p.m. $10

Harvey Sutton SFJAZZ Center, 7 p.m. $32

Rock & Pop

Arnel Sat Tee Bo Night w/ Split Banana and Pennyroy Hornbeck Tavern, 8:30 p.m. $7

Apocalypse Roxy w/ Shadowbooks and Blood Fruit, 9 the, 8 p.m., $7

Jon Richardson Memorial 8:30 p.m. $20

Kitten w/ Tear Bay Tree Tree Cabaret Hall 8 p.m. $20 p.m. $12

Hall Jaffe & the Disbelievers w/ Lucy Axtell Dirty Rats, Cookies to Love and The Session I Knew, Bi-Rite Music Social Room 7 p.m. free

The Soft White Stickers w/ The Bosses and Slaught & Blood Nickelson Stop 8 p.m. $15, $18

Tommy Ramone w/ 8 Nickelson Rock & Stone Blood Hall, 8 p.m. $30, $12

The Toolbox w/ Fam on Her Blood and Fever Dreams, Book of the Words, 8 p.m., $6, $15

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

Mobb A Nickelson w/ The Nickelson, Laughters, Iron Blood Kites, Mikk Inn, 8 p.m., $6

FRIDAY 25

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk, & Country

Jenna Siegel w/ Mike Bastian and Judy Berman Blood A Bookstore 9 p.m. $10

Janet Lassiter Subterranean Arkansas & p.m. TBA

Mike Hallet & Mary Nickelson Blood Band Jon Miguard & Wade Keller, Art House Gallery & Natural Dance 8 p.m., $10

Classical & Opera

Claude Debussy
Prelude, Book 1 & 2 w/ pianist Albert Lee Grimm, Redgrin Theater, 4 p.m. free

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Bossa Magic Cats Van Blood 8 p.m. free

Bossanova Station & Bossa With Blood Gallery B:30 p.m. $15

Dunbar Raffles and **The 99% Rangers** w/ Heartbreaker and M.A. Bruce Boppers, The New Parish 8 p.m., $17, $20

Soul 99 Me classic jazz with guest Bossa Singers The Alley, 8 p.m. free

Sally Bossa Quartet The Dunbar Bossa 8 p.m. $18

Rock & Pop

Folklore w/ Blood Party, Krystle Warren, and Cookies, Oakland Blood Opera House, 7 p.m. $12
A Minor Forces w/ Boppers, BAM/PFA, 7 p.m. $7

The High Bombers w/ 10Cc and Blood Arrows, The Fox Theater, 8 p.m., $28

Hellbreaker w/ Mutemath and Blood Ruins, Starry Station, 8 p.m., $45-$12

Blood Waves w/ Mrs Lutz & the Jaguars Hopscotch Tavern, 8 p.m. $10

Funk, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

Blood Trail Bastard w/ Bassics Mc Saunders, Mike Kane, and Tear Tongues and missing Bee performers, The Independent Station 8 p.m. $20
Lloyd Gaughy Funk, 8 p.m., $35
William Bennett Yoshi's Oakland, 8 p.m. $25

World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaeton

Afrobloom w/ Pee Raw Aubonez, 8 p.m. $15 $18

Bossa Nickelson 8 Bossanov / ANVC and Gabe Birmingham, Bossiess Cafe, 8 p.m., $10

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk, & Country

Homemade Jams Blues Blood Bosses & Roses 7:30 p.m. $22

Jaqui Blood Jaqui Starbreeze, 8 p.m., midnight, free

Gospel & Vocal

Bossa Stories w/ songs of Joni Mitchell, SFJAZZ Center, 7 p.m. $75

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Rashad Blood Artemis 8 p.m., $10 $15
Arnel Blackwood Jazz Ensemble live in the Mark, 8 p.m. 12:30 a.m. $15

Dueling Pianos w/ Host Jeff V & Chris M., Johnny Foley's Irish House 8 p.m., free
Bossa Blood & Tree Bossians 8 p.m. $20

Rock & Pop

Air Bands ft Bossa w/ Bossas and The Blood 49, The Independent, 8 p.m., $15 $17

Nickelsbossa w/ Hotel With Way and Starter, Hotel Utah, 9 p.m., $10

Jill Schoelle's solo rock show, Nickelson Art Bar, 6-9 p.m., free

Ellie Kyre w/ Sarasara Joya Nellie, and The Coldcorn, Nickelson 8:00 8:30 p.m., $13, $15

Blood w/ Contentic, Rock & Stories Blood Hall, 8 p.m., $10, $14

Portal to Bossas w/ The Insufferables and Blood Mercenary, Nook of the Bluebird 8 p.m. 18

Adrienne Haigh w/ Blood Haigh, The Warfield, 8 p.m. $35, $60

Lennon w/ Andy Allen & DJ Nickelson The Warfield, 10 p.m., $10-$40

Life Stories w/ Hank Blood Tree the Nickelson hands, Red Nickelson Quakers, Nickelson Station and Station Plaza, 8 p.m. $8

Hunt & Darr w/ Lou Dave Blood Basement Music and A p.m., $10 $40

1991 w/ Modern Blood, Banquet, and Hook Nickelson, Rock Nickelson 8:30 p.m. $7

The Pepers w/ Counterpoints and Tree Colleges Monarch, 8 p.m. $5
Scissors For Lefty w/ Awaxes and Ate Inc, Bosses of the Hill, 8:30 p.m., $10 $12

Blood Bossy w/ Mike Schorr, Nick Inn, 8:30 p.m. $8, $10

Nickelson w/ Nine, Ike Matchford, and Gabbi, 10 p.m. 8 p.m. $13-$30

Blood Ups w/ Caribou Son Kay, The Blood Stripe, Tree to Kelley Stirling, The Chevron, 8 p.m., $12, $14

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

Ted Blood w/ Ivo Band, Public Works, 8 p.m., $20, $25

SATURDAY 26

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk, & Country

Bossa, Bosses & Barbecue w/ Joe Louis Walker and Portia Seigler Monterey County Fairgrounds, 3 p.m. $40

Dunbar w/ Kelly Joyce Nathan Snow, and Wrathchbone Magazine Subterranean Arkansas, 8:30 p.m., $15 $25

Girls Ladies w/ Armond Capella, Dunbar Blood 7 p.m. $15, $25

Freddy Cliford And Wobbly World Funk, 8 p.m. $8 $17

Hot Hornbeck Bass Hopscotch Tavern 8 p.m., $20

Classical & Opera

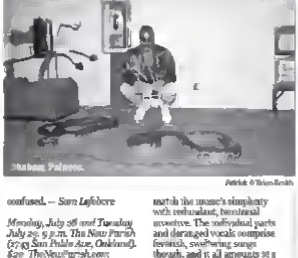
Kelly Hornbeck Choral Concert w/ conductor Kelly Hornbeck Stirling Chapel

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PICKS

Shabazz Palaces

In 1993, New York hip-hop trio Digable Planets scored a crossover hit with "Rebirth of the Slick (Cool like Dat)." The lead single from the group's debut album set afro-centered imagery and knowledge references against jazz, soul, and funk samples. After contributing two albums to a remarkably innovative, adventurous, and intelligent era of hip-hop alongside groups such as De La Soul and A Tribe Called Quest, Digable Planets disbanded in 1995. In 2009, Ishmael "Butterfly" Butler, the chief architect of Digable Planets' sound, reemerged with heady, narcotic, mystic, and provocative EPs as Shabazz Palaces. Initially, Butler had his identity By the Time Black Up, Shabazz Palaces' critically hailed debut album, was released in 2011. everyone knew, but that hardly illuminated the enigmatic music. Butler retains all of the critical and historical weight displayed by Digable Planets, though the sentiments like the production, are more complicated. Shrouded, Butler's trajectory suggests, is out — get



Patrick O'Brien-Keith

confused. — *Sam Lefebvre*

Monday, July 28 and Tuesday July 29, 9 p.m. The New Parish (1743 San Pablo Ave., Oakland). $20. TheNewParish.com

Hank Wood & the Hammerheads

Walking down the street/ Fuck the street/It's hard on the street. Those are a few lines from New York punk outfit Hank Wood & the Hammerheads *Go Home*, a dour and hostile debut that teeters charmingly on the verge of stupidity. Indiscernible guitar riffs, rudimentary keyboard, and manipulable cowbell play mid-tempo punk romps beneath the vocals, which match the music's simplicity with redundant, bombastic assertion. The nihilistic parts and deranged vocals comprise feverish, sweltering songs though, and it all amounts to a passable but very potent album. The refrain quoted above, for instance, is a list of willfully ignorant nonsense on paper, but the song's slow-building arrangement and conviction subvert in making listeners pound off at the street, too — or at least sympathetic. — *SL*

Saturday July 26, 7 p.m. Ely's Mile High Club (3629 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Oakland). $TBA. ElsMileHigh.com

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AUGUST 31

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SEPTEMBER 5

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SHOWDOWN
SEPTEMBER 10

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SEPTEMBER 28

DARK STAR ORCHESTRA
OCTOBER 2

TWIN SHADOW
SHOWDOWN
OCTOBER 3

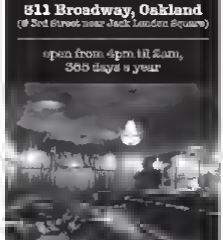
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C&C

7:30 p.m. free

Gospel & Vocal

Gerard Gibbs Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse, 8 p.m. $25 $27

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Charles Payne w/ Neil Cantos and Friends, Unity Temple of Natural Living, 6 p.m.
David Jeffrey's Jazz Fourchet Victoria Inmood 9 p.m. free
Fourtwelve Skyline Warehouse 410 1 p.m. free
Glen Pearson & Friends feat. Gerard Gibbs, Victoria Bears, and Gerard Manuel 5 Pm Oakes Gallery, 8 p.m. $6
Ginger Jay at Jazz Cafe Monte, 7:30 p.m., free
Red Garnet dinner jazz with guest vocalist Aleyers, The Alley, 8 p.m., free

Rock & Pop

Aeddis w/ Writers City Where the Sidewalk Ends, Broke No. Allen Ashridge, and Buddhead Jamaal, Golf Gather Live, 7 p.m., $12 $14
Bleak Where If You Remember/Ends w/ Lowhomes Death, Lifeless Stop Scarred, Just Flood, Closing Eye, and Outgrowther EP's Alley High Club 7 p.m. $8
Horrible A Victoria w/ Burnt Palms, Strangle Blues, and Good Stays, Victoria Club, 8 p.m. $7
Le Fal Absolute De Victoria w/ Victoria and the Voxiferous, Dreamers, and Secret Church, The Uptown, 9 p.m., $10
The Neighbourhood w/ Wall and Glen Arrows, The Fat Victoria 9 p.m., $25
X-Over Bleeds When remain Cafe, 7 p.m., info
Yuh w/ Glen Osher and Augen, Bellaroi Metro Operahouse, 8 p.m., $12

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

Jesse Thomas Yoshi's Oakland 7:30 p.m. $25 $27
Sexafrol Saturdays by music Ranest by Lil Mama, MLK Cafe, 9 p.m., $10
Soulja Boy New Karaboom City, 10 p.m., $25, $30

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

Alpha B Soe Ashtonte w/ The Unit of Rush, Dust 9, 9 p.m., $12, $15
Diego a Centrella The Other Ranest 7 p.m. $22 $25
Dramatic Interpretation w/ Martin Unlimited, Ashkenaz, 8 p.m. $20, $25
Digables Blueknights and the Hear Ashkenaz, the Club Deck, 8 p.m., $15 $20

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk, & Country

The Hartford Revival w/ The Ranest Company, Rand Ambition Guitar Hall, 8 p.m., $15, $17
Gaelyl Rodriguez and Meredith Ballard Alley Cafe, 4 p.m., free
Earl Pearson Brooks & Dunn, 7:30 p.m. $14
Mechanics of Motion Laser Talk music with Steve Maginnis, Cafe Trouse, 10:30 p.m. $2 10 p.m.

More Listings Online

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free

Gospel & Vocal

Sweetly Solitary songs of Joni Mitchell, SFJAZZ Center 7 p.m., $35

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Dazzling Blossom w/ Chris M. Todd B Jeff V Johnny Foley's Irish House, 8 p.m., free
Mojon Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 p.m., $34

Rock & Pop

The Best of the Bay a sizzling rotation of the Bay Area's Rarest Ranest Top of the Mark, 5:30-30 p.m., $10
Victoria Glass w/ Wax God and Ray Boys, Rock Bar, 9 p.m., $10, $12
Crushing Noise rollogue 6:30 p.m., $7 $10
Rita Mestrone w/ The Peach Kings and Wardells Bottlehead Stop, 9 p.m. $20, $23
Samaritan Blues w/ Sandy's, Pearl Charles and the Pope Harpos Band The Ranest 8 p.m., $10
Ranest Sullen and the Dirty Designers w/ Andre Thierry, Brick E Metal Music Hall, 8 p.m., $12, $15
Mark Pryor w/ What's Riley Gilbert and the Josh Swearger Band Bottom of the Hill, 8 p.m., $12, $14
M.O.T.O. w/ Sharp Objects and The Roars, Hemlock Tavern, 9 p.m., $8
Prince Tribute w/ The Purple Vues, The Goldenchurch, Phone Six Sycamore, and DJ Rockin' Mark, 8 p.m., $7 $10
Ridge the w/ Ranest Sound Tank Pioneer Party and Todd Jay, The Rhetoric, 10 p.m., $5
Sunday w/ Lady Kang, the Fillmore 8 p.m. $13
The Bar Talks w/ Among Outsiders, Sash Honey and The Accidents, Rock of the Woods, 9 p.m. $6, $10
The Cool Westerns The Riptide, 9 p.m. free
The Rams w/ The Fourth and King and Still Moves, Mission Rock, 6:30 p.m., $5, $7
Victoria Glass Ranest w/ Le Pistol and Monkey, Thee Parkside, 9 p.m., $12

SUNDAY 27

EAST BAY

All Ages

Kathi Rayfree Khai's Restaurant and Delicatessen 7-8 p.m. free

Blues, Folk, & Country

Kevin Russ Stark Club, 1 p.m., info
The Dark Pickers Farm, 11:30 a.m. free
Ed Gerhard Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse, 8 p.m., $23 $24
Lit Kennedy Rock, 6:30 p.m. $18



C&C

Bootleg Bistro in Rio Vista w/ Rick Brown & The Highlights, Sydney Grande Park, 1 p.m. free
Sunday Morning Blues Jam Biz Blues Cafe MediterrAsian, 10 a.m. free

Classical & Opera

The Merry Widow Musitheatre comedy operetta, Dublin Hills, 2 & 3:30 p.m.

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Hot and Hot Night Honey & Locke, 6-10 p.m., free
Hot on Sundays Summer jazz Oakland, Oakland by a history of jazz with Randy Sutton and an open jam session, Betti Ann Public Library Golden Gate Sutton, 3 p.m.
John Schott Astral Cafe 5 p.m., free
Larry Cabral w/ Frank Lata, Piedmont Hotel Rooftop, 4 p.m., $25
Lee Hildy Oakland's High Street Sutton Cafe 3rd floor, free
Rex Carter Trio Yoshi's Oakland 8 p.m., $20, $35
The Vita Press Sutton Mix / The Genie, Bimbo's Grand, 7 p.m., $8, $10
Sinbad Taylor's Sunday Jam Oakland and Art Sinbad Geoffrey's Inner Room & jam $5

Rock & Pop

Rock n' Roll Sunday Oakland lineup each week, The Fenside Lounge & p.m. free

World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaeton

Cumbia Vocal Ensemble w/ Manuel Sutton Subterranean Arthouse 5 p.m., TBA
John Santos w/ Rebekyah Santos The EBRP Oakland Concert, 7 p.m., $15
Musica Tradicional La Pena Oakland Center, 2 p.m. free
Spirits Lifted Brunch celebration featuring John Santos and special guest Arcangels

Sutton Eastside Ballard Bistro 3 p.m., $15

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk, & Country

Bocce Live Tapas w/ Tom Rayman and Sarah Grandman Main Bar Room, 7:30 p.m., $5
Klabaster and the Original Sutton w/ Master Jimmy Tree Parkside, 4 p.m. free
Terry Comstock Johnny Foley's Irish House 5 p.m. free

Gospel & Vocal

Gospel Sutton with Father Perfect & extolling Stones, 12PM on Rhythm 11 a.m. & 1 p.m. $10 Oakland brunch
Evening Sutton SFJAZZ Center, 7 p.m., $20

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Dueling Pianos w/ Todd vs. Chris M. Johnny Foley's Irish House, 3:30 p.m. free
Michael Adams Top of the Mark, 10 a.m. champagne brunch LIMP $78 per LIMP plus tax and gratuity
Dueling Alternate Wil Blades and Joe Blades instrumental quartet Madrone Art Bar LIMP p.m., free

Rock & Pop

Cotopaxi's the Band w/ Sons of Ammo, Hemlock Tavern, 9 p.m., $10
The Wannabes w/ The Tyde, Matt Nave, and DJ Andy Cohen The Chapel, 7 p.m., $17
Susan Adams w/ Mademoiselle Noah Saint Vitus Bar Fenside Hotel Club, 5 p.m., $5
Sunday Ballard w/ Cartoony Hill the Rain monger, and The Light Kits, Ruby Ballroom Ballard, 9 p.m., $7 $15
Dylan Wainwright w/ Quarter San Francisco Storm Grove, 2 p.m., free
The St. Valentines w/ Pompo, Sutton of Biz Hill, 6:30 p.m., $12
The Yellow Brains w/ The Spencer Green Tenderloin and James Rabbit, 6 Bits, 5 p.m., $5

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

Santos Latin Cypher and local emcees, beatboxers, musicians, and DJs, Grand Room doors, 9 p.m. free

World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaeton

Salsa Sunday w/ a rotating lineup of LIMP hosts and DJ Sweetness, 10 the 4 p.m. $5 Grand 4pm $10 after
Sly & Grands w/ DJ Fatality, The Independent, 5 p.m., $100, $150

MONDAY 28

EAST BAY

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Craig Sweeney and Friends The Bonsuite Lounge 5 p.m., free
Orchestra Explosion Lounge 5 p.m., $TBA
Neil Carter Trio Yoshi's Oakland, 5 p.m., $20, $30

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk, & Country

Acoustic Stand and 4 Session lineup of Hotel songwriters LIMP each, Sutton 7 p.m. free
Bluegrass Mondays and rotating guests, Oakland, 5 p.m., free
Fiddel Fridays and Bones Elbo Room, 5 p.m. free
Open Bluegrass Jam w/ The Fort Oakland, Armenia, 6 p.m., free

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Le Are Not Le Colonel, 7 p.m., free
Mike Shaw: The Session Bonsuite & Bones 7:30 p.m., $12

Rock & Pop

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1808 Gilman 924 Gilman St., Berkeley, 510-525-9616
Bottle Tree 1600 San Pablo Ave., Oakland 510-600-4500
Ale Bis & Lounge 492 9th St., Rivers Public, Oakland 444-5444
Alhambra Pub 1833 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley 510-843-2473
The Alley 3325 Grand Ave., Oakland 510-444-8666
Amoeba Music 2455 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley, 510-549-1125
Art Room Gallery & Oakland Center 2000 Oakland Ave., Piedmont, 510-272-2670
Ashkenaz 1317 San Pablo Ave., Oakland, 510-525-5054
Bakesale Cafe 3229 Broadway, Oakland 510-863-1449
The Battle 1955 Park Pl. Point Richmond 510-237-1100
Blend and Bar 511 17th St. Oakland, 510-444-2566
Blank Canvas Center for the Arts 1601 Lincoln St. Oakland, 510-333-6867
Bath Tea LIMP 1621 Telegraph Ave. Oakland, 510-788-1711
Casablanca 2600 San Pablo Ave. Berkeley, 510-548-0556
Club 21 2111 Franklin St. Oakland, 510-208-5425
Coffee Mill 2983 Grand Ave. Oakland, 510-465-4624
Cragg Lounge 5428 College Ave. Oakland 510-985-2691
The Commercial Theatre 1555 12th St., Oakland 510-673-8813
Telegraph Pavilion 1414 Harbour Way South Richmond, 510-215-8000
Dorado 469 19th St., Oakland 510 893-6579
Eagles Hall 2305 Alameda Ave. Alameda, 415-285-6995
El's 66 1515 Club 2820 Grand Luther King Jr. Way Oakland 510-534-8000
Fire Art Bar and Lounge 30 Grand Ave., Oakland 510-452-4440
First Congregational Sutton 2345 Channing Way, Berkeley 510-848-3626
Forbidden Island Tiki Lounge 1304 Lincoln Ave., Alameda 510-749-1532
Ira Theatre 1916 Telegraph Ave. Oakland, 800-745-3000
Freight & Salvage 2020 Bolland St., Berkeley, 510-644-2020
The Great Theater 2001 Ligley Rd., Berkeley, 510-843-9963
Hemp Hall 2740 Berkeley (Haven't We at College Ave.) Berkeley 510-540-9988
High Street Sutton 1260 High St., Alameda 510-644-5444
Island Pacific Club 1436 Bolland St., Armenia, 510-865-5825
Ivy Room 1651 San Pablo Ave., Albany, 510-526-5888
Jazzschool 2087 Bolland St. Berkeley, 510-845-5373
Jewish Community Center of the East Bay 1414 Walnut St., Berkeley 510-848-6432
John Patrick's 1913 Park St., Alameda 510-522-5300
Jupiter 2181 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-843-8277
Kingman's Lucky Lounge 2330 Grand Ave. Oakland 510-465-5464
Kip's Restaurant at 2439 Durant Ave. Berkeley 510-848-5340
La Pena Cultural Center 2886 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley 510-849-2568
Laney College Theatre 900 Fallon St. Oakland 510-464-3540
The Layover 1892 Franklin St., Oakland 510-464-7917
The Lighthouse Lounge 2272 Telegraph Ave., Oakland
Lounge 3431 3431 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland 510-531-3411
Luka's Taproom & Lounge 2221 Grand way, Oakland 510-451-4877
Merchant's Saloon 401 2nd St, Oakland, 510-465-8032
Mix Lounge 5900 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland 510-530-2255
Alameda Lounge 2966 San Pablo Ave. Berkeley, 510-548-2000
Mad Gardenias City 1484 Webster St. Oakland 510-251-0700
The San Pablo 1979 18th St., Oakland w, 510-444-2424
The Night Light 311 Broadway, Oakland, 510-287-1811
Oakland Metro Sportsbarn 1630 3rd St., Oakland 510-763-1468
ORACLE Arena 1301 Coliseum Way Oakland 510-568-5141
Parliament Theatre 2025 Broadway, Oakland 510-465-6400
Parliament 511 Washington St., Oakland, 510-730-8304
Piedmont Player Company 1720 San Bonn Ave., Oakland 510-547-8180
Quinn's Lighthouse 1961 Embarcadero Cove Oakland, 510-536-2060
Radio 436 14th St., Oakland, 510-208-2000
Red Room 1944 Broadway, Oakland, 510-575-0113
Rhythmix Culture Works 2551 Morning Ave., Oakland, 510-893-5400
The Rock Bandy 3745 San Bonn Ave., Oakland
Roland's Biodomain 1700 Clement Ave., Alameda, 510-237-9180
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LIMP on LIMP Lounge 341 13th St Oakland 510-986-1889
Ruby Train Pavilion LIMP Committee Rd., Concord 925-676-8912
The Sound Bowl 2147 Broadway, Oakland 510-466-4100
Spectacle Lounge 2054 Lincoln Ave. Alameda, 510-522-1300
Starry Plough 3101 Shattuck Ave., Quinn ky, 510-841-2162
Tula Lula 2338 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-444-6126
Temple Grand 3238 Grand Ave. Oakland
Subterranean Art Space 2179 Bolland, Way, Berkeley, 510-981-1261
Uptown 1818 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-451-1800
Vinyl at Venue 420 14th St. Oakland 510-379-8954
Milky Screw Inn 6961 Telegraph Ave. Oakland 510-652-3820
Yoshi's 510 Embarcadero West, Oakland, 510-238-9200
Zellerbach Hall UC Oakland, Berkeley 510-981-8918

Think indie

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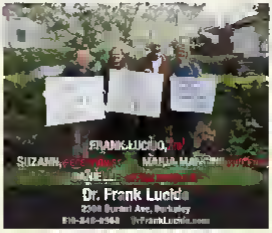
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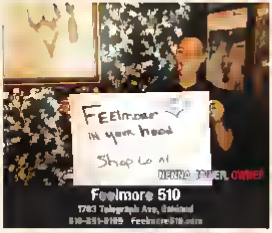
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510-849-2963 DrFrankLucido.com



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Farewell with
BIKE LANES on
Telegraph AVE

BENEFITING



A Big Thank You

to all the local bars and restaurants participating in this year's Drink to Donate program. With their help we are able to raise funds for Bike East Bay a local bicycle non-profit, who is helping us bring bike lanes to Telegraph Ave Go visit your local participating bar or rest aurant and have a drink to benefit a great cause *

For more info on how to bring Bike Lanes to Telegraph Ave visit our site at Bike East Bay go to: BikeEastBay.org

TELEGRAPH BEER GARDEN

Telegraph Beer Garden
2318 Telegraph Ave Oakland, CA
TelegraphOakland.com

actual cafe

Actual Café
6334 San Pablo Ave Oakland CA
ActualCafe.com

Kingston 11
2270 Telegraph Ave Oakland CA
Kingston11eats.com

Stork Club
2330 Telegraph Ave. Oakland CA
StorkClubOakland.com

Marc 49
4915 Telegraph Ave Oakland, CA
Marc49.com

Hi-Life
400 15th St Oakland, CA
HiLifeOakland.com

NIGHT LIGHT

The Night Light
311 Broadway Oakland CA
TheNightLightOakland.com

Rudy's Can't Fail
4081 Hollis St. Emeryville CA
1905 Telegraph Ave. - Oakland, CA
rumrudy.com

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EAST BAY EXPRESS

C&C

Andrew Jackson Hand w/ Hard Girls and Dogbreth, Slim's, 7 p.m., $15, $40

Insomniac Swagg Fog and Mercer Bottom of the Hill, 8:30 p.m., $10

Ida Gibbs w/ Feather Bright, and Bottom Winds Tribe, Bazel, 8 p.m., $8

Undergoing w/ Vesture, Separation and Ashtrays Pools, The Knockout, 8 p.m., $8

Wolfmother w/ Inner Future, The Fillmore, 7 p.m., $28

Summer Sun Summer Cults, 7 p.m., free

Movie Magic Mudcrane Art Bar, 10 & 11:30 p.m., free

The Three Eskers Mudcrane Art Bar, 7 p.m., and
Billy Trill's Armoire, 9:30 p.m., $TBA

Experimental & Avant-Garde

Off Velocity Hardtack Cafe, 8:30 p.m., free

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Dat Tebeau Spa Big Easy Hall 'n Oats and Francisco, 8 p.m., $62

Rock & Pop

Ari Wiesler w/ Rhona Lindon and Bobby Jo Medrano Hotel Utah, 9 p.m., $10, $12

Mike Thompson w/ All Your Bottles Bottom of the Hill, 8:30 p.m., $9

Bottom w/ Night Driver, Iron Kingdom, Midnight Chemist and DJ Ellis The Knockout, 8:30 p.m., $7

Valencia Bottom w/ Pure Bathing Culture, The Independent, 8 p.m., $12, $14

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

Solidarity Records showcase w/ Zaliea, Solid Clip, Shrubs, Enigma, and Nim 1 Hive Room, 9 p.m., $8

TUESDAY 29

EAST BAY

All Ages

Kath- Expects the pianist and Bizzare collaboration with local, national, and international guest musicians for an evening of music from Summer genres, Soul's Restaurant and Performance, 6-8 p.m., free

More Listings Online

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Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Lafayette Wolfe's Veranda 8 p.m., $12

Maple Craig Trio Cafe Trieste, 7:30-9:30 p.m. and

Rod Dibble clarinet jazz with guest Mission Bottom The Alley 9 p.m., free

Ryan Rhodes Long Jupiter 9 p.m., and

Stephen Valencia Jr Bistro, 8 p.m., free

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

Shalom Palaces w/ C-Sick & the Jay and Camera, The New Parish, 9 p.m., $20

World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaeton

Lagos Lawrey Mission Bc, the Layover 10 p.m., free

Rev Celso w/ Beast 1000 Bistro, 7 p.m., and

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk, & Country

7 p.m., TBA

Bobbie Bourson w/ TBA, The Uptown, 8 p.m., free

Gamaguh w/ Grant Foster and Hop, The Lagunamoto Saloon, 8 p.m., $5

The Allen and Rhona 10000 Arthurmen, 8 p.m. $12

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

Rhona Celso w/ Chevy Woods, The New Parish, 9 p.m. $15, $20

Solidarity Soul Improv Jam, The Layover, 10 p.m. and

Sisters of Soul at 10 Rhona Street, Peoples, Mona Malone, and guests, Yoshi's Oakland, 8 p.m., $15-$20

World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaeton

Caribbean Night w/ Reggae Fiesta and DJ Mandrill, Tommy's Mocha, 7 11 p.m., free

WEDNESDAY 30

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk, & Country

Live Bottom and Irish Movie Yarnivals, Jets, Shakedown, alternate plans, Bazaar, and Valencia w/ Grandfather / Jack Edwards, The Layerunn Manor 8:30 p.m. free

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Bob Gross and the cadets Rhona Rooster's Roadhouse, 8-11 p.m. free

Brandy Craig and Friends The Mooch Arts Review, 7 p.m., and

Soul Shakes Jessie jazz with guest Bottom singers, The Alley, 9 p.m., and

Rock & Pop

Emily's Army w/ TBA, 1-2-3-4 Go! Records, Boost at the Mission 3066 Bonnie St., 415-387-6342

Rich Hill Records Climax 1111 California St. # 5 7-76-7457

Park Slobist Brewery 1000 Grant Highway Rich Hill 3-8-6-8-8-8

Pablo Fabernamia 1000 Powell St., 415-646-0956

The Plough and the Beast 118 Clement St. 415-751-1222

Pacific Works 151 9th St., 415-863-0955

The Regency Mudcrane 1300 Van Ness Ave. 888-883-7848

Slick Jane Shop 1551 Fell St., 415-701-2011

The Riptide 3039 Geary St. 415-681-8830

Rainy Days 4020 Ingleside., 415-863-0777

San Francisco Conservatory of Music 50 Oak St. 415-503-6275

BOMBE Bazaar 201 Bottom St., 866-920-7799

Skylark 3589 19th St. 415-621-0294

Slim's 333 11th St. 415-522-0333

St. Gyrthen's Episcopal Bottom 2997 8th St. 415-567-3656

Sticky Wicket Bakery 2385 Mission St. 415-285-7227

Serpentfield 657 Harrison St. 415-348-6600

Sing Sing 581 Geary St., 415-691-2292

Temple 540 Howard St. 415-978-9662

Thee Parkside 1600 17th St. 415-603-0303

Top of the Rhona 500 Castro St., 415-616-8856

The Warfield 982 Bonnie St. 415-775-7722

Yuuki + San Francisco 1530 Fillmore St., 415-885-8600

VENUE DIRECTORY

SAN FRANCISCO

10 Oak 10 Oak Street Bonnie St., 415-413-5060

111 Bonnie Gallery 111 Minna St., 415-626-2710

1510 Folsom 1007 Bonnie St., 415-431-1200

Solarium 952 Valencia St. 415-870-0055

Valencia Music 1055 Haight St. 415-861-2000

Atlas 1000 3060 20th St. 415-646-3047

Bonnie 1300 567 California St., 415-951-6400

Beach Blanket 1000 Rhona Highway, 415-346-6000

Beauty Bar 2299 Mission St. 415-285-0323

Bill Graham Civic Auditorium 99 Rhona St., 415-551-8000

Bimbo's 365 Club 1025 Tennessee Ave. 415-474-0365

Biscuits & Blues 401 Mission St., 415-362-2583

Bottom of The Hill 1233 17th St., 415-621-4455

Boxer & Horse Studio Hall 1710 Bottom St. 415-863-8733

Brooks 2589 Bottom St. 415-543-8300

Cafe du Nord 2170 Market St. 415-861-5016

Cities Bottom 509 Valley St., 415-863-2000

Comet Club 1190 Folsom St. 415-503-3832

The Cellar 685 Bottom St. 415-441-5678

The Chapel 777 Valencia St., 415-551-8117

Conlon Symphony Hall 201 Van Ness Ave. 415-864-6000

DNA Lounge 375 11th St., 415-626-1409

Edinburgh Castle 950 Geary St. 415-885-4724

El Rio 3158 Bottom St., 415-282-3325

Elbo Room 647 Valencia St. 415-552-7788

The EndUp 401 6th St. 415-646-0999

Fellowship at The Nike 222 Bonnie St. 855-681-4566

The Fillmore 1805 Geary Blvd. 415-346-6000

Great Freedom Movie Hall 869 Market St. 415-865-1752

Bottom Theatre 1231 Polk St., 415-923-1233

Bonnie Theatre 601 Van Bonnie Ave. 415-362-4600

Bonnie Hall 500 6th St. 855-648-6900

The Independent 628 Bonnie St. 415-771-1421

Johnny Foley's Irish Bonnie 248 Ferrell St., 415-864-1777

The Knockout 3223 Mission St., 415-970-0784

Marshall Lounge 500 Valencia St. 415-241-0000

Mezzanine 444 Jessie St., 415-625-8880

Mighty 119 Utah St., 415-763-6161

Milk Bar 1840 Haight St. 415-381-6455

Monarch 101 6th St. 415-284-9794

DJ & DANCE

THURSDAY 24

EAST BAY

Ennyp Food Lounge, 3411 9 p.m., free
DJ Cats on turntables w/ a live artist shredding. The Layover. 8 p.m.
DJ Hondosaic The Layover. 10 p.m., free
DJ Right turntablist pop mind-blowing rock and urban hip-hop, Kip's Restaurant. 9:30 p.m. free
Flim Thursdays w/ Dia Herrera Polo, and Zhosta following reggae dancehall and roots. Era Art Bar and Lounge. 10 p.m. free
Golden Era Thursdays w/ resident Ron Del Key. Anniversary host and guest Dia, Vinyl Venue club and 18 p.m. free before 11pm $5 after
The Jump Off: Hip-Hop w/ Dia spinning Pop-Ups Oct 21, 8 p.m. $10-$15
The Soul Congregation w/ Juan Ortiz, DJ Avatare and Donovan spinning Latin Afro, Brazilian, reggae, funk, rumble and more. The Lafayette Saloon 8 p.m. free
Strictly Vinyl Hang your own vinyl in play Jukebox Cafe 7 p.m. and
Six Cents w/ Jason Rhan spinning hip-hop 80s house and Afrobeat, Era Art Bar and Lounge 8 p.m. and
Happy Break White Noise Inc 10 p.m.-midnight, free
Ultra Wave w/ Dia Fake, Salon and and Willie Mack Sonar Bar & Lounge, 9:30 p.m. $10$4

FRIDAY 25

EAST BAY

Aces Cycle Techno, old school, hip-hop and Latin, Sound and Sea 8 p.m. and
DJ Sean Sleepy Bone Radio New Northtown City, 4 p.m.
DJ Right turntablist pop, mind-blowing rock, and urban hip-hop, Kip's Restaurant. 9:30 p.m. and
DJ Smitha's Fresh Beats Happy Hour w/ Dia spinning hip-hop Sun and funk, The Night Light, 5-8 p.m., and
DJ Stiffs Room Sonar Bar & Lounge, 9 p.m. and
Dystopia Beats & Bass, Lounge 3411, 8 p.m. $8
Escape w/ DJ Zion B Special Guests, The Layover 10 p.m. free
Kids' Fourth Friday w/ DJ Halo, Bar Three Fifty-Five 11 p.m. free
Friday Night Salsa w/ guest Dia spinning salsa, La Cornetta Cafe, 10 p.m., $5
Room w/ DJ Pure spinning hip-hop, R&B, soul, house, funk, and world music, Sky Art Bar and Lounge 9 p.m. $10
Hip-Hop House Basics w/ Naked DJ, Club 1220 9 p.m. $9
The Jump Off Bass Burning Dia, Aqil- ne 5 p.m. and
Kudos dance night- ers Fifth Ave and the Knights, Restaurant, 8 p.m. $15+
Laid Bare: 8 20 and Burn Dance Party 18 Jamie Jams and tracks spin dance from the Knights, The Night Light, 10 p.m. $15 before 11pm $10 after
Night of Classic Hip Hop and the Vinyl Ambassador pays tribute to classics from Hip-hop's Golden Era The Stone Steady, 10 p.m., free before 11pm $5
Old-School hip-hop and R&B, Studio, 8 p.m. free
Shredded Top 40, 2000s and 2004 Participant, 9 p.m. $10+
Stomp w/ DJ Krmel, Sonar Bar & Lounge 9:30 p.m. $5 after 11pm
World Beat Fridays w/ DJ Tropic spinning Jamaican soca samba salsa, merengue, Vibrata Reggae, Bhangra Remix music, and more Cordial Lounge, 10 p.m.

SATURDAY 26

EAST BAY

The Burn Yardbreaks w/ Sean Kennedy, Rastas Music, 2 p.m., free
Kasha + Rose Wine w/ DJ Sugie spinning classic Sixties hits, Happy Lounge, 10 p.m. free
Fans Rocked w/ DJ Rare and guests spinning hip-hop and R&B Rocks and Bar, 9 p.m. $8 before 11 p.m.
Freestyle Friends w/ DJ Squid and Fans Tribe spinning Seventies and Eighties rare wave and rock cuts, Bar Three Fifty-Five 9 p.m. free
DJ Ball 8 Disney's Locker 9 p.m. free
DJ Right turntablist pop mind-blowing rock, and urban hip-hop, Kip's Restaurant, 9:30 p.m. free
Happy Gnome w/ DJ Kendall Starr spinning punk, and indie, and noise rock, The Missouri Lounge, 8-10 p.m. and
The Jam w/ The Steady Jams and the Vinyl Ambassador, The Rose Steady, 10 p.m. and
Laid Saturdays w/ DJ Lena spinning club bass, Latin bass, hip-hop, and more, White Horse Bar 9 p.m. free doors 9 p.m. $5 after
LMC w/ Superstar and and and DJ Supreme spinning R&B hip hop, and soul, Era Art Bar and Lounge 9 p.m. $10
Mystic Milk Dubstep / DJ Burn and guests spinning a genre-surfing extravaganza, Kingman's Lucky Lounge 9 p.m., free
Rhythm Summer Series Joyful Noise, Heaven Explosion, Mouton Noir, DJ Nemesis and Soulful Festival, The New Parish 2 p.m. $8
RVR 1999 w/ DJ Willie Bodie, The Lounge, 9 p.m. free
Sonora Be soulful break Sun Bar none, w/ DJ Soul Prefers, Sonar Bar & Lounge, 9 p.m. $5 after 11pm
Reggae Night w/ DJ Easton Island Paradise Club 10 p.m. $10
Soulful Saturdays w/ hip-hop DJ spinning classic hip-hop, neo-soul and more Tavern, Lake Chalet's & Lounge, 10 p.m. $5 cover 11 p.m. $10 after
The Last Weekend dance and and Sun Ink, Parliament, 9 p.m., $5
Unstoppable Oakland The Beat Patrol, 9 p.m. $5

SUNDAY 27

EAST BAY

2001's Indie Dance Party The Night Light 9 p.m. $5 $10
Fans Feel Real Right w/ DJ Johnny Bolts, Palm Trees, Work Out, and Palace Stark Club 9 p.m. TBA
DJ Kudos Lessons w/ special guest Dia, Ruby Room 7 p.m. free
Kudos Bar and by Room 4 p.m. free
King of Kings Reggae Sundays w/ Dia Smoke Young Fresh and Various Spinning Reggae dancehall and lovers rock The New Parish 10 p.m.
SF Sunday Dance Party 80s 90s 00s and downtempo, Parliament, 9 p.m. $TBA
Bounce Sundays w/ DJ Heroic Poison and DJ hip-hop, Sonar Bar & Lounge, 9 p.m. and
Sweet Soul Sunday w/ DJ Fowzie, The Lafayette Saloon, 8 p.m., free

MONDAY 28

EAST BAY

Mothers Ruin Mondays w/ Sir Grimsby, Picture and Melody The Lafayette Saloon 9 p.m. free
Soul sessions at Lounge, psycho Shelby and porno Sandman dance Kudos 10 p.m.-2 a.m. and
Wrong Bars Dance highest pit grows as and $$$ power pop nuggets, punk

PICK

Jackie Sugarlumps
Jackie Sugarlumps' DJ nights at the Make-Out Room (3225 22nd St., San Francisco) hark back to an earlier era. She spins strictly vinyl — and nothing made after the 1970s. Moreover she eschews skinny displays of turntablism, long faders and music — opting instead to simply play one song after another. Her approach highlights the role of a DJ as a displayer of taste and personality into arenas in which she excels. Her soul selections are impeccably sweet, but the sets are also spiked with freak beat eccentricity and obscure garage wallop. Her running hump-sync and expressive gestures attest to the manic soul allure of an amplified old record. In the balanced interior of the Make-Out Room, where a disco ball speckles streamers and loudly colored dance as shimmering light, it's easy to feel transported back in time — but the tracks cost more. — *Sam Lefebvre*

Thursday, July 24, 9:30 p.m. Free. MakeOutRoom.com



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TUESDAY 29

EAST BAY

Layo' Tuesday / Selecta DJ spinning reggae, dancehall and dub The Layover, 10 p.m.
Sonar Dance Band Jams Sonar Bar & Lounge 8 p.m. $TBA
Tuesday Tuesdays w/ DJ AAsun Grits Cafe Van Ness 9 p.m. free

WEDNESDAY 30

EAST BAY

DJ Willie Mack The Night Light, 8 p.m., and The Bar Room house, funk, and electronica, hip-hop, Latin, African, and more Vinyl at Venue Club 9 p.m., $12
Dusty Turns w/ Sir Joe & Taz, Dilg T, Sonic, and Mr. Sandy Bar Three Fifty-Five 9 p.m. free
The Jet Set w/ DJ resident and special guests, Lake's Taproom & Lounge, 8 p.m. free
Karaoke Lambada w/ DJ Fen Jing, The Layover 9 p.m. free
Kudos Wednesday / DJ Steelbank and guests, The Lafayette Saloon, 8 p.m. free
Tradewinds w/ DJ Terrible Enemy spinning everything from doo-wop to punk rock from the Fellas through Bay Rockers, Merchant's Saloon 10 p.m.-2 a.m. free
Victorious w/ DJ Spec spinning house, old school, hip-hop, and Latin music, Sonar and Bar 5-9 p.m. free
Wild Wednesday w/ DJ Andi Rae, dance DJ, The Lounge, 10 p.m. and
Wormhole an intergalactic art set, music, visuals, lasers, and beats, Era Art Bar and Lounge, 8 p.m., $6

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SAVAGE LOVE

THE BOYS IN THE BANDWIDTH

On "cyber infidelity," the accidental return of an NSA hookup and is the gay world shallow?

By Dan Savage

I am a gay man and have been with my boyfriend for three years. I just discovered that he has been engaging in what can only be described as cyber infidelity. He had a secret email account, posted on Craigslist M4M and also had an Adam4Adam account. About once a week, he would exchange photos and engage in conversations with other men. He claims he never met any of them and it was just to exchange photos. He let me look at his secret email account, and there was nothing that pointed to any meetups. I asked him to delete his accounts, and he did. I am completely shocked. I understand if he wants to look at porn on his own time (I certainly do), but the quantity and secrecy of his actions is obviously not healthy. We have major life plans together, and I don't doubt that he is committed to me. What do I do, and what steps should I take to make sure it stops?

Stressing Over Cyber Infidelity

It isn't true that your boyfriend's actions can "only be described as cyber infidelity." They could be described as "harmless online flirtations." But you've chosen to slap the "infidelity" label on his actions, SOCI, and now you feel compelled to have a full blown my-boyfriend-cheated-on-me meltdown.

Try looking at it this way: If your boyfriend regularly stopped at a bar to have a cocktail, and people flirted with him, and he flirted back — and that's all he did — would that constitute an "appletini infidelity"? No — and a boyfriend who flipped out about that sort of interaction would be regarded as jealous, insecure, and controlling. So what difference does it make that your boyfriend did a little online flirting? Is it that your boyfriend jacked off thinking about those other guys? You jack off thinking about other guys when you watch porn. Is it that he jacked off thinking about and interacted with guys he could actually have IRL? Lots of guys in monogamous relationships — gay straight, or bi — jack off about people they flirted with in bars and gyms, i.e. guys they interacted with and could have IRL.

Here's what you should do, SOCI: Ask your boyfriend to knock this shit off because it spooks you out. But don't reveal this "online flirtation" up to "cyber infidelity" unless you want to make yourself miserable, and don't police your boyfriend's online activities — snooping is the only way to "make sure it stops" — unless you want to get dumped.

I'm in my mid-forties. About two years ago I had a one-night stand with a nineteen-year-old college student looking for no-strings-attached fun on Craigslist. I was surprised to learn that he hoped to pursue a career in my profession. I gave him some advice, and we went our separate ways. Flash forward two years. We are looking for some temporary summer intern type help. We brought the candidate in for an interview, and to my surprise, the applicant was the one-night stand. We obviously did not discuss our prior meeting, but by the look of surprise on his face, my guess was that he was as surprised as I was. He handled himself well in the interview. My supervisor intends to hire him. I would be his direct supervisor. There would be no way around this if he was brought in for the two-or-three-month job, but our contact would be almost exclusively via email. My instinct is that our prior one-night stand shouldn't disqualify him from the job. Any red flags?

Nervous Supervisor Amassa

Lots of red flags — I could spin out a few Worst Case Scenarios — but the kid is qualified, he handled himself (and only himself) well during the interview, and your supervisor, who taps you in your company's organogram (and only there), plans to hire him. Under the circumstances, NSA, I don't see how you can avoid supervising this guy for the summer. What would you say to your supervisor? "Hey, look — I sometimes cruise Craigslist looking for young-but-legal ass, and I fucked this kid a couple of years ago, so let's interview a few more candidates, and hopefully I won't have fucked any of them."

And I agree that the kid shouldn't be penalized for having a nonsensical one-night stand with an adult who was a stranger. So have a quick face-to-face word with your new hire on his first day. Acknowledge the awkwardness privately and verbally (put nothing in writing), tell him the hiring decision wasn't yours and he got the gig on his merits, and close with something like this. "Things between us will be strictly professional from now on, of course — and, holy crazy coincidence, huh?" Then stick to emails for the duration of his internship.

I'm a gay man about to turn 35. Thirty didn't bother me, but being halfway to seventy is freaking me out. The gay world is obsessed with youth and beauty and once you're not young and hot anymore, your life may as well be over. If you don't have a tight ass and ripped abs, you have no value and nothing to contribute. Why is the gay world so shallow?

One Very Enraged Romantic

Ed Murray was 58 years old when he became the mayor of Seattle. Larry Kramer was 52 when he inspired the founding of ACT UP. Bayard Rustin was 51 when he organized the historic 1963 March on Washington. Harvey Milk was 47 years old when he was elected to the San Francisco Board of Supervisors. Barney Frank was 41 when he was first elected to Congress in 1981 and 73 when he retired last year. Neil Patrick Harris was 42 when he won a Tony Award for starring in the Broadway revival of *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*. Jonathan Capehart was 40 when he became a member of the *Washington Post*'s editorial board in 2007. Tony Kushner was 37 when he won the Pulitzer Prize for *Angels in America*. George Takei (77), BuPaul (53), Andrew Sullivan (50), Andy Cohen (46), Jared Polis (39) — I could go on.

If you don't think gay men over 35 — or 50 or 60 or 70 — have anything to contribute, OVER, then it's not the "gay world" that's shallow; it's you.

Find the Savage Lovecast (my weekly podcast) every Tuesday at TheStranger.com/Savage, mail@savagelove.net

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Notice is hereby given to the creditors and contingent creditors of the above-named decedent, that all persons having claims against the decedent are required to file them with the Superior Court, at 2120 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Berkeley, California, 94704, and mail a copy to Douglas S. Dorr, as trustee of the trust dated December 21, 2011 wherein the decedent was the settlor, in the County of Alameda, California, within the later of four months after 07/23/14 (the date of the first publication of notice to creditors) or, if notice is mailed or personally delivered to you, 60 days after the date this notice is mailed or personally delivered to you. A claim form may be obtained from the court clerk. For your protection, you are encouraged to file your claim by certified mail, with return receipt requested.

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